

Hafa Adai!

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POLL RESULTS

What's your level of confidence in the Legislature's ability to pass a new budget for Fiscal Year 2010 before the current fiscal year ends on Sept. 30?

Low-70

Mid-Range-5

High-6

Sunday, August 30, 2008

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of August 28, 2009

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Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Final Rest

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy was laid to rest Saturday night alongside his slain brothers.

NATION...Page 15



14th Birthday

With theme "Fly Me to the Moon," Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant marked its 14th birthday Friday.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Yumul set to release draft 2010 budget bill this week. **PAGE 3**

Taijeron is appointed new deputy AG. **PAGE 5**

Fitial admin says it will comply with court decision on OGA suit

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Attorney General Ed Buckingham said

yesterday the government will take immediate steps to fully comply with the CNMI Supreme Court's order affirming a lower court ruling that directed Gov.

Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos to release documents previously withheld from Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) pursuant to the Open Government Act.

The documents would show how much the CNMI government is paying for the lawsuit it filed against the U.S.

See FITAL on Page 4

'CEC's emergency regs unlawful'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Independent candidates Juan T. Guerrero and Joseph Camacho are taking issue with a recent decision by the Commonwealth Election Commission to, among other things, change the layout of the November ballots, saying this is both "unconstitutional and unlawful."

See CEC'S on Page 4

3 GAO studies on CNMI economy, wage hike

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of the

U.S. Congress, is currently doing three reports on the CNMI focusing on the impacts of federal trade policies and the minimum wage increase, as well as the U.S. Depart-

ment of the Interior's management of federal grants for insular areas.

The first GAO report, which is now being finalized, looks at the

See 3 GAO on Page 4

SSHS Manta Band to perform at Carnegie Hall in NYC

The Saipan Southern High School Manta Band under the direction of William DeWitt as conductor has been selected as one of only six

high school bands across the nation to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City during the New York International Music Festival on April

17-21, 2010.

Organized by World Projects Corporation, admission into the festival

See SSHS on Page 4

WATER GONE TO WASTE

A large volume of water spills out of the 1 million-gallon water tank operated by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in San Roque on Saturday morning.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



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Local

'Lifting of CUC emergency hinges on Aggreko, CDA'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said the lifting of declaration of a state of disaster emergency for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. hinges on the decommissioning of the Aggreko generators, the hiring of qualified personnel at CUC, and the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's pending approval of a \$177 million debt settlement deal between CUC and the Commonwealth Development Authority.

This is part of Fitial's Aug. 28 extension of the CUC emergency declaration. The declaration is extended for another 30 days.

The previous extension lifted the legislative restrictions on the

hiring of non-U.S. citizen professionals at CUC.

On Friday, Fitial said the suspension of the hiring limitation has allowed CUC to hire qualified technical employees.

Yesterday, press secretary Charles Reyes said the Fitial administration wants to be able to discontinue the executive order but it needs the vital CUC worker issue addressed through legislation.

"The Legislature must act," he said.

The House has yet to pass Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz's (R-Saipan) House Bill 16-264, introduced in July, allowing CUC to hire more alien workers.

To avert a personnel shortage crisis at CUC weeks before

Aggreko generators will be shut off, Fitial used an executive order to lift the hiring restrictions on non-U.S. citizen professionals at CUC.

These professional employees may include sanitarians, engineers, accountants, information technology specialists, mechanics, electricians, well-drillers, pipe fitters, plumbers, wastewater treatment facilities operators, and other trades technicians.

"My Directive No. 10 was designed to avert this [personnel] crisis. Once the Aggreko matter has been resolved, I will need to examine the CUC employment situation and the affected statute to determine whether to terminate this executive order and its directives," Fitial said.

Starting today, all of Aggreko's 18 generators will be shut off and will be marked by a 1:30pm ceremony.

CUC has a one-year, \$6 million contract with Aggreko expiring on Sept. 12.

"The CUC system will be adjusted through September 11, when Aggreko [generators] will be disconnected from CUC's system. Thereafter, the Aggreko installation will be removed, the site returned to at least as good a condition as when Aggreko began operation, and CUC will generate its own power," said Fitial in his extended executive order.

CUC said it will be able to produce 55 megawatts of power in September and, at the same time, will have a reserve of 15

MW, without Aggreko generators. CUC's capacity is expected to increase to 61 MW in October, plus 22 MW in reserve capacity.

In his latest 13-page order, the governor also said the \$45 million stock conversion to settle CUC's \$177 million debt to CDA is now before the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, which will have a meeting on Sept. 3.

"Once the Aggreko matter has been resolved, and the Commission acts on the CDA matter, I

will need to examine the scope of the executive director's authority and the tasks before him in order to determine whether to terminate this executive order and its directives, notably Directive No. 9," Fitial said.

Directive No. 9 gives the CUC executive director all the powers of the CUC board of directors. In particular, the executive director, Tony Muna, has the full power and authority to agree to swap CDA debt and related obligations for preferred stock and related features and rights.

Chamber wants actuarial analysis on \$200M bond

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Can the CNMI afford over \$20 million in annual long-term debt service? This and the lack of a financial and actuarial analysis on a proposed issuance of a \$200 million pension obligation bond are among the major concerns of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce with respect to Senate Legislative Initiative 16-10, HS1, HD1.

The initiative seeks to amend the Commonwealth Constitution to authorize the issuance of pension obligation bond, to help resolve the \$231 million government debt to the NMI Retirement Fund.

The Chamber, the largest business organization in the CNMI, is "greatly concerned" that there is no reference to any financial analysis having been done either in connection with the drafting of the initiative or in connection with the report done by the House Ways and Means Committee chaired by Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan).

Chamber president Jim Arenovski said a financial and actuarial analysis should be performed to determine, at the very minimum, the anticipated term of a \$200 million bond, the dollar amount of bond issuance costs that will be incurred, and the anticipated interest rate of such a bond.

Such analysis, he said, would also determine the annual cost to the CNMI to amortize principal and interest costs of a \$200 million bond, and the likely percentage amount and corresponding dollar amount of the actuarially-determined employer contribution rate to the Retirement Fund following the receipt of proceeds from a \$200 million bond issuance.

"Inasmuch as the government is apparently currently incapable of remitting a single dollar to the Retirement Fund, we are unsure of from where the government intends to fund the many millions of dollars that will be required annually to repay the interest and principal for

See CHAMBER on Next Page

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Yumul set to release draft 2010 budget bill this week

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

With only a month before the start of Fiscal Year 2010 on Oct. 1, House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) said a draft 2010 budget bill will be released this week.

He said the draft bill reflects \$150.5 million in total budgetary resources for FY 2010 under a House concurrent resolution approved in July.

"I can give an assurance that there will be a draft budget bill sometime (this) week. Then there will be a meeting with House members and the Senate and if there's no objection, the bill will be finalized and introduced. And if the governor signs it, then we will have a budget for FY 2010 on time," Yumul told *Saipan Tribune*.

A key component of the draft bill is an update from the Office of Personnel Management on the number of "active" government personnel versus the listing of personnel in the governor's budget submission.

"My biggest concern is to make sure every active government employee in OPM's list is included or they may lose their job [in FY 2010]," said Yumul.

Another concern is whether the Fitial administration—through the Department of Finance—will provide a revised revenue projection for FY 2010 in light of a drop in Compact Impact funding, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant funding, and the impact of a court ruling on the government's \$213 million debt to the Retirement Fund.

In an interview on Friday, Yu-

mul also said that the committee has completed the draft worksheet that will go with the draft budget bill. He said that Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Maria "Frica" Pangelinan (D-Saipan) had been gracious enough to allow one of her staffers, Emilyn Aldan, to help in the data entry for the draft worksheet.

For FY 2009, a \$4.1 million in additional shortfall is projected should the Marianas Public Land Trust decides not to remit the amount to the general fund. The Fitial administration said the \$4.1 million was listed as recovered interest resource in the FY 2009 budget and that MPLT was willing to give the money during the preparation for the budget.

CHAMBER

From Page 2

these bonds," Arenovski said in a letter to Yumul, commenting on SLI 16-10, HS1, HD1.

The Chamber notes with great concern a Deloitte & Touche report on the audit of financial statements for the year ending Sept. 30, 2008. That report disclosed that there is currently over \$107.85 million in general government bonds outstanding. The vast majority or over \$100 million of the outstanding amount was incurred through the April 2007 bond issues.

The principal auditors note that total principal and interest due on the outstanding bonds is over \$182 million payable through October 2033. This amounts to an average of some \$7.3 million annually for the next 25 years.

"That \$7.3 million per year

obligation relates to an outstanding principal amount that is only little more than half of the proposed \$200 million bond. Can the Commonwealth afford over \$200 million in annual long-term debt service costs?" Arenovski asked.

In addition, the \$200 million bond issue would not cover the remaining amounts owing, over \$31 million, under the June 29, 2009 court order; the hundreds of millions of dollars of remaining additional unfunded actuarial accrued liability; and employer contribution costs on a going-forward basis.

The use of pension obligation bonds to infuse cash into underfunded public pension systems is the subject of great debate throughout the U.S. and the decision of whether to employ this sort of debt instrument requires a detailed financial and actuarial analysis, said the Chamber president.

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SSHS

From Page 1

is based on audition only and is limited to six high school groups and two showcase university ensembles.

Chief operating officer Kirk Troen communicated to DeWitt that the artistic

director, Dr. Larry Sutherland, wished to congratulate the band on a successful audition and the outstanding band program at Saipan Southern High.

The Saipan Southern High School Manta Band is an award winning band that has received multiple gold medals during regional competitions in every quarter of their program, which includes

a brass band ensemble, string quartet, solo performers, and rock bands. The Manta Band recently performed during the opening ceremonies of the Beijing Olympics and the Annual Tumon Bay Music festival.

Saipan Southern High School Principal Craig H. Garrison said: "The entire CNMI can take great pride in the

accomplishments of the Manta Band when it performs in New York as ambassadors to the CNMI."

Garrison relayed the achievement to U.S. Rep. Greg Killili Sablan (D-MP) in a meeting and invited him to attend the performance if he is available.

DeWitt said the school needs to raise a significant amount of money in sup-

port of this prestigious event and will look to partner with the government and community in its efforts to insure a successful event. Anyone wishing to be a part of this event is encouraged to contact Garrison or DeWitt directly at 670-664-4000 or come by the school for more info. Tax credit is encouraged. **(PR)**

3 GAO

From Page 1

impacts of U.S. trade laws, programs and agreements on the CNMI's key commodity exports.

Richard Pierce, who is Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's former special assistant for trade relations and economic affairs and was appointed by the governor as the point of contact on GAO projects since 2007, said part of the report examines the impact of World Trade Organization changes on the CNMI economy.

"GAO intends to describe how certain trade laws, programs and agreements are applied to the CNMI and other U.S. insular areas, and examine how those same laws, programs and agreements affect commodity exports," he told *Saipan Tribune* when asked for comment on three ongoing GAO reports.

Pierce, who has been working on this GAO report for about six months now, resigned from his post as the governor's special assistant for trade rela-

tions and economic affairs for health reasons. He, however, has volunteered to assist the Fitial administration on projects already underway.

Saipan's garment factories started closing one after the other starting in January 2005 when the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade expired, eliminating quotas on textile exports to the United States. The GATT had regulated all global trade in textiles and apparel since 1974.

By March 2009, not one garment factory was operating on Saipan and, as a result, not a single penny in garment sales had been collected since then.

Site visit in September

The second GAO report looks into the impact of the minimum wage increases in the CNMI and American Samoa. The study is mandated by U.S. Public Law 110-229, which puts CNMI immigration under federal control by Nov. 28, 2009. That report is due April 15, 2010.

GAO started work on preparing the minimum wage in April.

But the GAO site visit in the CNMI will be in September. The GAO team is currently in American Samoa for the same minimum wage impact study.

Pierce said GAO will be on Saipan after they conclude their work in American Samoa on Sept. 10, and they will stay in the CNMI until Sept. 26, to conduct interviews and surveys with a great number of businesses, employees and other civic organizations.

"This examination of the effect of increased minimum wage rates in the CNMI has been welcomed by both business and government. Increased wage rates drove the last third of the apparel operations out of the CNMI, and promises to further harm our already decimated local economy," said Pierce.

Last week, U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources staffer Allen Stayman said Congress is expected to delay by four months the next 50-cent minimum wage increase scheduled in May 2010 to give lawmakers ample time to review the results of a GAO study on the impact

of the wage hikes on the CNMI and American Samoa economy.

If passed into law, the measure will bring the next round of minimum wage hike to September 2010 instead of May 2010.

Currently, the CNMI's minimum wage is \$4.55 an hour, after another 50-cent increase on May 26.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) earlier urged business leaders to cooperate when GAO conducts its survey on the minimum wage and its impact on the local economy.

The survey would determine the rates of employment and living standards of workers, with consideration of the other factors that impact rates of employment and the living standards of workers such as inflation in the cost of food, energy, and other commodities.

It will also estimate the impact of any further wage increases on rates of employment and living standards of workers in the CNMI and American Samoa, considering other factors that may impact the rates of employment and living standards of workers, including assess-

ing how the profitability of major private sector firms may be impacted by wage increases in comparison to other factors such as energy costs and value of tax benefits.

Federal grants

The third GAO report, which also started months ago, involves the U.S. Department of the Interior's management of grants for the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands, said Pierce.

Pierce said the GAO team working on this report is on island.

"As with any GAO audit report, they were requested by the U.S. Congress to conduct audits of a number of DOI's grants to the insular areas. Audits are a regular occurrence... GAO has a list of projects they are reviewing [on] Saipan, Tinian and Rota," said Pierce, who was appointed by Fitial as point of contact for all GAO studies/reports beginning with GAO report 07-436 in 2007. That report is about the CNMI's serious economic, fiscal and accountability issues.

CEC'S

From Page 1

In a meeting last Tuesday, the election board adopted emergency regulations amending its rules on the ballot's format and design, the 300-foot perimeter requirement, and the use of machines in the preliminary counting of ballots in each senatorial district.

Guerrero and Camacho's campaign manager, Clyde Norita, said the emergency regulations were adopted despite the absence of any emergency.

A source within the team said they are particularly opposed to the new layout of the ballot where candidates will be grouped with their respective parties, instead of being grouped according to the positions they're running for. In this case, one side of the ballot's front will have all the Covenant Party candidates; the other side will have all of the Republican Party candidates. All other parties, including the independent candidates, will be printed on the back of the ballot.

The Guerrero-Camacho team believes the commission's action is a direct violation of the commission's own regulations—both previous and amended.

Norita said they sent the commission a letter objecting to the new proposed regulations and demanding for corrective action from the election board. The commission received the team's complaint yesterday.

The CEC had called all recognized political parties to the commission's office on Aug. 25 to draw lots for candidate locations on the ballots that will be used in the upcoming Nov. 7 election. Guerrero's team claimed that they were never invited to the event, along with other independent candidates.

When asked about this, CEC executive director Robert Guerrero said that, based on the law, only recognized political parties are required to be at the event.

"We did not invite them because independent is not a party," he added.

'Unlawful'

In Norita's letter to the election

board, he pointed out that Public Law 14-87, which provides that all candidates of a recognized political party be listed consecutively on the ballot with all the other candidates of the same party, had been amended by Public Law 15-07, which deleted the "consecutive" requirement of P.L. 14-87.

Norita said 1 CMC 6004 also promulgates and recognizes the existence of independent candidates.

"Independent candidates are entitled to protection against actions such as those perpetrated by the commission on Aug. 25. ... The commission does not have the legal authority to create additional rights in favor of recognized political parties but to the detriment of, and in violation of the rights of, independent candidates," Norita's letter stated.

He asked the commission to provide facts and authority used in the action taken.

Norita asked the CEC to withdraw its notice of emergency and adoption of amendments.

He threatened to go to court if the board fails to respond.

When contacted by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Norita refused to comment, saying they will wait for the CEC's response to their letter.

'CEC: There is an emergency'

CEC's Robert Guerrero defended the commission's action yesterday, saying it was lawful and constitutional in all aspects.

Contrary to Norita's claim on the absence of emergency, Robert Guerrero said there is an urgent need for the CEC to meet the deadline on the ballot production, which will be printed in the U.S. mainland.

"It was an emergency because we have a deadline to meet on ballot design and printing from the mainland which is Sept. 1. We need to rush the ballot to send them to the absentee voters and our timeline is Sept. 15," Robert Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

He expressed confidence that the agency and the board are not violating any statute.

"Our legal counsel and the Attorney General's Office reviewed the regulation... so I am confident we're not violating any law," he said.

'Decision stands'

The chairwoman of the election board, Frances Sablan, confirmed yesterday that they received a letter of complaint from Guerrero's group but she admitted that the board's decision will remain "at this time."

It was learned that the board, along with its legal counsel, is scheduled to meet today to discuss the issue and respond to Guerrero's camp.

Sablan disclosed that besides Guerrero and Camacho, no other independent candidates have formally approached the commission about a similar concern.

"We will discuss it Monday with our legal counsel and we will respond. As far as the board is concerned, we know we decided in accordance with the book... and right now, we [will] stick with what we decided on," Sablan added.

FITIAL

From Page 1

government to oppose federalization of local immigration.

Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan and Associate Justices John A. Manglona and Alexandro C. Castro, in a decision issued Friday, said public disclosure legislation provides a vehicle for citizens to remain informed about the decisions of agencies and offices throughout the CNMI. They said without such knowledge, accountability falters, and officials are at liberty to expend public funds with minimal oversight.

The justices ordered the CNMI government to make the documents available to Sablan for copying and inspection by 5pm today.

Press secretary Charles Reyes yester-

day said the government "is prepared to release records on Monday."

Buckingham, in a statement, said: "The Commonwealth respects the judgment of the Supreme Court and will take immediate steps to fully comply."

Sablan filed the lawsuit as an individual. In response, the government sought judicial guidance since some of the records involve an ongoing lawsuit. The Supreme Court carefully crafted a decision that defines what is, and what is not, a "public record" for the purpose of this case and for other future cases.

The retainer arrangement in the case had previously been disclosed. Now, pursuant to the court decision, specific invoices will also be transmitted as public records.

The Fitial administration said the court agreed with the government's position that certain records remain cov-

ered by attorney-client privilege and did not direct their disclosure.

Buckingham said the decision will help guide future Open Government Act requests.

"It will be shared with all members of the Attorney General's Office, so we can better advise agencies as they deal with future requests," he said.

'Protection of vital interests'

Reyes said the government believed it had a vital public policy justification for the temporary non-disclosure of the requested information pending the outcome of the Covenant Section 903 lawsuit supporting the local self-government provisions of the CNMI's Covenant Agreement with the United States.

"The government was acting in good faith to protect a vital government function and uphold an urgent state in-

terest in this case. By now, nearly every CNMI stakeholder has acknowledged the severe economic harms posed by federalization. The government was acting to protect our community's vital interests," Reyes said.

On Friday, Reyes said he does not foresee an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Sablan had sued Fitial and Inos to compel the administration to disclose where it is getting the money to fund the lawsuit against federalization. She asked the court to issue an order mandating Fitial and Inos to fulfill their obligations by making available the requested materials within 40 hours of the court's decision.

Fitial and Inos, through assistant attorney general Braddock J. Huesman, argued, among other things, that forcing the CNMI to release sensitive informa-

tion that the federal government is not entitled to contravenes the purpose of a statute that deals with litigation exceptions to the Open Government Act.

On June 18, the Superior Court ordered Fitial and Inos to provide Sablan with documents showing how much taxpayers money had been spent, how much the Chicago-based law firm Jenner and Block is billing the CNMI, and the identity of the source of the money being used in the lawsuit against federalization.

Fitial and Inos immediately appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court. Huesman also filed in the Superior Court a motion for a stay of the directives in that order pending the appeal.

On June 19, Wiseman denied the motion. That same day, the Supreme Court granted the petition for a stay of Wiseman's orders.

Taijeron is appointed new deputy AG

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham has appointed lawyer Joseph Taijeron to serve as the CNMI's Deputy Attorney General. Taijeron begins his first day of work today.

Taijeron rejoins the Office of the Attorney General after serving the Legislative Bureau for the past 10 months. Taijeron previously served the OAG from April 2002 through November 2008. Taijeron rejoins the office to become the second longest serving attorney in the OAG after Chief Prosecutor Kevin Lynch, with AG Ed Buckingham following as the third longest serving attorney in the OAG.

"Joe was one of the most experienced prosecutors at the OAG, and he is also one of the most experienced local attorneys in the OAG," said Ramon C. Mafnas, the governor's senior policy adviser.

Buckingham, who worked extensively with Taijeron in the OAG's criminal division, said Taijeron brings a diversified skill set that will serve the AG's Office well. Buckingham noted that Taijeron's legal experience comes from having litigated cases in local and federal courts, and having prosecuted crimes on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"I'm excited to welcome him back to the AG's Office," said Buckingham.

He also noted that Taijeron, having worked as a legal counsel to both the Senate and the House of Representatives, now has a grasp of the Legislature that will benefit the OAG and improve the collaboration between the legislative and executive branches of government.

Taijeron, who has wide-ranging experience working directly with all three branches of government, enjoys the strong bipartisan support of a number of legislators who have endorsed his return to the Executive Branch.

"I think the Legislature will be losing a very competent and knowledgeable legal counsel,"

said Vice Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero. "I appreciated not just Joe's legal advice, but often sought his personal guidance on many issues as well. I will miss his company and wish my friend the best."

Rep. Rosemond B. Santos, also an attorney, said Taijeron was instrumental in drafting some very complex legislation and thanked him for working with her on the Judicial and Governmental Operations committee, and amending and clarifying many House bills and resolutions.



Taijeron

From the Senate side, Sen. Luis P. Crisostimo, said: "Attorney General Buckingham has made a wise choice in selecting Joe Taijeron as his Deputy Attorney General. Joe is a native son of the Marianas and has been a dedicated government staffer. It is heartwarming to know that Attorney General Buckingham saw Joe as someone he can rely on. Joe has the professional knowledge and experience to

make a difference, and I wish him well as he undertakes his new responsibility."

Of his legislative experience, Taijeron said: "I am pleasantly surprised at how much I enjoyed working at the Legislature and I'm grateful for the opportunity to have worked with the hardworking and talented employees of the Legislative Bureau. At the same time, I'm also anxious to be able to apply the knowledge that I have gained as a legal counsel at the Legislature, in terms of how the Legislature operates and how laws are created, to improve law enforcement."

Press secretary Charles Reyes said Taijeron is supported by Independent, Republican and Democratic lawmakers, and the appointment should help improve relations between the executive and legislative branches of government for the Commonwealth's benefit.

In accepting the position, Tai-

jeron said: "I appreciate the attorney general's confidence and look forward to the challenge of improving the overall quality of the Commonwealth's legal representation. The Commonwealth deserves an Office of the Attorney General that is capable of vigorously upholding Commonwealth law and adequately representing government agencies. I will commit to achieving this goal and will work to make the Office of Attorney General even more professional and accountable than it already is."

Taijeron attended Guam's Father Duenas Memorial School and previously worked as an attorney in Guam, but he has strong family ties and strong roots in the CNMI. He is the grandson of Lucy Seman Iriarte and the late Larry Iriarte of Garapan.

Taijeron is the vice chair for Mt. Carmel School's board of directors and has volunteered on numerous occasions to serve as the school's mock trial coach with Buckingham.

Taijeron received a bachelor's degree in government and international studies from the

University of Notre Dame, Indiana, where he graduated with honors. Taijeron graduated from

Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, California, on a full academic scholarship.

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September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

As a collaborative effort of the Office of the Mayor of Saipan and the Department of Public Health, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela said he will be signing a mayoral proclamation tomorrow, Sept. 1, 2009, to designate the month of September 2009 as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in the Municipality of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proclamation signing ceremony will be held in Building D of the Northern Marianas College at 10am.

All prostate cancer victims, survivors, families and friends are invited to attend the brief ceremony. (PR)



Mark Mobius, Ph.D.
Keynote Speaker

Mark Mobius, Ph.D., a renowned expert on emerging markets, is this year's Keynote Speaker for the 9th Pacific Region Investment Conference. Dr. Mobius is currently the Executive Chairman of Templeton Asset Management, L.L.C. In his current role, he directs the Templeton research team based in 15 emerging markets offices across the globe and manages several emerging markets portfolios for both retail and institutional investors. In 2006, Asiamoney magazine listed Dr. Mobius as one of the "Top 100 Most Powerful and Influential People," stating that he "boasts one of the highest profiles of any investor in the region and is regarded by many in the financial industry as one of the most successful emerging markets investors over the last 20 years. Dr. Mobius has written several books, including "Trading with China," "The Investor's Guide to Emerging Markets," "Mobius on Emerging Markets," "Equities—An Introduction to the Core Concepts," and "Mutual Funds—An Introduction to the Core Concepts." The World Bank and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development appointed Dr. Mobius joint chairman of the Global Corporate Governance Forum Investor Responsibility Taskforce. He earned Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Boston University, and a Ph.D. in economics and political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Daniel Roland, CIMA Executive Director, APAFS	Jack Lin Co-Chief Executive Officer, Janus Capital International	Mark J. Heath, CFA, CPA Sr. Vice President, Metropolitan West Capital Management, LLC	Stephen Weiss Sr. Vice President, Income Research & Management
David J. John President, ASC Trust Corporation	James D. Staub Sr. Vice President, Atalanta Sosnoff Capital, LLC	Sen. Manuel Villar Senator of the Philippines	Stephen Grundlingh Regional Head (South East Asia) and Country Head, Templeton Asset Management Ltd. (Singapore)
Frank Crawford, President, Crawford & Associates, P.C.	John J. Rice Partner, Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robins	Bill Kalra Vice President & Portfolio Manager, Payden & Rygel	
Gerard A. Cruz Chairman, Board of Governors, APAFS	Louis Boulanger Louis Boulanger Now Limited	Patton Roark, CFA Managing Director & Portfolio Manager, Richmond Capital Management	


SESSION OVERVIEW

- Emerging Markets Investing & Outlook
- Measuring a Government's Financial Health and Success
- Real Estate Investments Overview
- Protection Against the Risk of a Systematic Financial Meltdown
- Outlook for Equity Markets
- Outlook for the Global Fixed Income Markets


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COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-09-023
FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT
FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009



The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

- OMB Circular A-133
- Standards for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Functions, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.
- Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)

The following information must be included in the audit proposal:

- Title Page**
 - RFP Subject
 - Name of Firm
 - Local Address
 - Telephone Number
 - Name of Contact Persons
 - Submission Date
- Transmittal Letter**
 - A brief statement of your understanding of the work to be performed and an affirmative statement to perform the work within the time period stipulated.
 - State all inclusive fees for which the audit will be performed.
- Firm's Profile**
 - Provide a brief description of your firm's personnel professional/educational background and experience, number of staff, staff level (partner, manager, supervisor, etc.) and client listing.
 - The firm shall make an affirmative statement that at least the partners are certified public accountants.

The date of contract award will be no later than September 30, 2009. Audit work shall commence thereafter and must be completed by January 31, 2010.

One (1) original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-09-023"** to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, 96950, no later than **3:00 p.m., local time, on September 8, 2009.**

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Approach to Project (25 maximum points)
- Qualifications of the Principal and Proposed Staff (25 maximum points)
- Experience on Similar Projects (25 maximum points)
- Time to Complete the Project (20 maximum points)
- Cost (5 maximum points)

All inquiries regarding the RFP must be directed to Mr. Antonio S. Muna, CUC Executive Director, at (670) 235-7025 – 7032, extension 124.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in any proposal if, in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of the CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ANTONIO S. MUNA
Executive Director

Hundreds join back-to-school summer bash at Palms Resort

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hundreds of people of all ages flocked to the Isa Bar poolside of Palms Resort Saipan on Saturday for the popular back-to-school summer bash, which featured free entrance and affordable food and beverages.

Husband and wife Tony and Gigi Gomez brought with them three kids” Hope, Pyeton and Sommer.

The Gomezes joined the fun and games, including the water-balloon throwing contest, dancing contest, and free banana boat rides.

Prizes included Japanese lunch buffet at the Minami Restaurant for adults and a food package at Isa Bar for the kids.

It was the first time for the Gomezes to join the summer bash.

They were having lunch at the Minami Restaurant the last time the summer bash was held in June.

“It’s really nice to be here. The food is also great. This is something different. They should have it at least once a month. But they must make sure it will be a government payday,” said Gigi Gomez.

Friends Darienne Concepcion and Reyleann Dejillas said they just learned of the event from some of their friends.

“We are having fun. We will be here all day,” Concepcion said.

Manny Elieisar, who works at the Emergency Management Office, brought his two kids: Frankie, 8, MJ, 3. He said it’s a good time to relax with all the families before the opening of classes.

Eight-year-old Angela Charf-

auros of Sinapalo Elementary School on Rota said she was having a great day as it was an opportunity for her to stay with 5-year-old cousin Ton Ton Pangelinan in the pool. She is here on vacation with her mom at her auntie Yan Che’s house on Saipan.

Housewife Jamie Palacios not only brought her four kids but also six teens from the neighborhood.

“It’s our first time and we’re all enjoying the fun,” she said.

And so did a large group of Korean nationals who belonged to the Jesus Love Church. They were accompanied by their church leader, Kim Gi Jo.

“We could not join the last one. Now we’re enjoying the day here,” said Ansook Lee Jepen.

The hotel’s communication and marketing executive Valerie Camacho estimated the guests at about 500, which is double the number of the previous summer bash.

DCCA CHILD CARE PROGRAM OPENS FOR NEW APPLICANTS (Saipan)

To: All parents and/or Legal Guardians

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs will be doing a pre-eligibility assessment for new applicants for the Child Care and Development Fund (Child Care Program) for the island of Saipan. The pre-eligibility assessment will be done on Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2009 at the Multi-Purpose Hall, between 5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m. The first 100 applicants who qualify during the pre-eligibility assessment will be given an application to complete. When the 100 applications are out, the program will immediately close its issuance of applications.

Parents and/or guardians who are interested in applying for the program must go through the pre-eligibility assessment and will need to bring the following:

- Three (3) latest checkstubs showing the applicant's name, hours worked (at least 60 hours bi-weekly), hourly rate, and gross earnings (both parents)
- Most recent 1040 tax (both parents)
- School documents (class schedule, must be full time 12 credits)
- Training schedule

Completed applications along with the required documents should be forwarded to the Child Care Program Office, Capitol Hill no later than **Monday, Sept. 14, 2009 at 12:00p.m.** Incomplete applications as well as applications turned in after this time and date will not be accepted.

Completed applications should be forwarded to:

DCCA Child Care Program Office
Caller Box 10007
Building no. 1347 Ascension Ct.
Capital Hill, Saipan
Tel. No. 664-2575/76
Fax No. 664-2570

For this program opening approved applications will be funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and is only valid for one year.


Requirements:

Applicant of Household


- Check stubs for the most recent three (3) pay periods for each parent or guardian
- A copy of Identification Card for each parent or guardian (Passport, CNMI driver's license, Mayor's ID Card or entry permit)
- A copy of your most recent 1040 Tax (each parent or guardian)
- Residency: The applicant or guardian must be living in the CNMI
Provide one of the following documents
 - House Rental/ Mortgage
 - Utility Receipt
 - Telephone Receipt
 - Entry Permit
- Employment verification
- Child support statement/stub
- Training/Education Verification and class schedules
- If single parent/guardian in a household provide notarized affidavit

Child/Children Household member:

- A copy of Birth Certificate for each child (Child must be a US citizen or a qualified alien, as defined in Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA))
- A copy of US Passport
- A copy of Social Security Card



NOTICE TO ALL BOATERS



This is to inform the general public that the Division of Fish and Wildlife has deployed Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) at the following positions:

Latitude	Longitude	Buoy	General Area
15°21 35 N	145°50 05 E	AA	North of Saipan
14°59 30 N	145°43 48 E	CC	East of Tinian
14°05 48 N	145°09 12 E	DD	SE of Rota
14°12 42 N	145°10 48 E	EE	NNW of Rota
15°59 54 N	145°27 42 E	FF	West of Tinian
15°04 36 N	145°32 56 E	GG	West of Tinian
15°09 51 N	145°28 15 E	HH	SW of Saipan
15°14 54 N	145°29 47 E	II	West of Saipan
15°19 19 N	145°32 20 E	JJ	West of Saipan
15°17 11 N	145°41 20 E	KK	NW of Managaha
15°20 45 N	145°46 00 E	LL	SW Marpi Reef

- Coordinates are set in WGS84 datum.
- Units are in Degrees Minutes Seconds (D/M/S).
- Buoys have a drift range of .5 nautical miles from the above-mentioned positions.

These FAD’s are to be utilized for the sole purpose of recreational fishing. Boaters are advised not to anchor/moor onto any of these systems as they may cause damage to the buoy. This project is funded by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Grant. Copies of the positions and map are available on the CNMI Division of Fish & Wildlife website: (http://www.dfw.gov.mp/Fisheries/FAD_Locations_60909.html).

NMC's Rota, Tinian sites 'remain busy' with activities

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A year after the Northern Marianas College suspended its academic programs on Rota and Tinian, the two instructional sites remain busy with a lot of activities and programs offered by other government entities and federal agencies.

NMC said that among the existing activities funded by federal grants on both sites are the Adult Basic Education Program, the Upward Bound Program, the Educational Talent Search Program, and the Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services program.

Both sites have also been instrumental in helping other agencies and companies organize events like workshops, seminars, and training activities.

For instance, the Tinian instructional site recently hosted the Florida-based Adams Marine Company, which held a training for residents so they could qualify for their captain's license.

On Rota, CREES regularly assists farmers and ranchers, especially in providing modern, alternative methods of farming and aquaculture. There are also ongoing classes, like the preparation class for the NCLEX examination that are being conducted through video conferencing.

Other workshops and trainings regularly held at both sites include the water quality training (EMO), disaster recovery workshops (Homeland Security), and pesticide safety (CREES).

Academic programs on Rota and Tinian were suspended in the Spring of 2008 to comply with accreditation requirements. Because of limited resources, it was not financially feasible to match the full complement of academic programs and student services that are offered on Saipan.

As a result of the suspension of the academic programs, Rota and Tinian students were provided financial assistance to transition to the Saipan campus. The sources of these financial aids included various scholarships as well as provisions from legislative delegations.

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez emphasized Friday that the two sites remain central to the college's mission of providing high quality educational opportunities to all CNMI students. She said they are continuously evaluating the educational training needs of both communities to ensure that appropriate and adequate services and support are made available.

She said the Tinian and Rota staff also recruit students to ensure that high school students there are provided mentorship in applying for financial aid in preparation for attending NMC for the first two years of their postsecondary education.

'Feasibility studies begin'

Fernandez told Saipan Tribune that the institution is currently evaluating different ways how it can expand the educational and

professional training services offered on Rota and Tinian.

The college, she said, is already doing various evaluation and feasibility studies, including focus groups sessions, to


better determine the needs of the Rota and Tinian community as well as NMC's ability to meet such needs.

The college will soon be launching a feasibility study

with the assistance of the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning to evaluate the feasibility of offering academic programs through distance education.

The upcoming focus group sessions, designed to assess the educational and professional training needs of Rota and Tinian, are scheduled for the first week of October on Tinian. Other evaluation activities will also be conducted in the next few weeks.

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CEPEDA, Benjamin Matagolai 'APONG'

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A. Samoa economy posts \$1.3B sales in '07

American Samoa's economy generated \$1.3 billion in sales in 2007, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2007 Economic Census of Island Areas: Geographic Area Series for American Samoa. The economic census profiles American Samoa's economy every five years.

In 2007, American Samoa had 812 businesses, including 612 with paid employees. These businesses employed 11,247 people and had an annual payroll of \$132.3 million.

The 2007 census data include statistics for American Samoa, its five districts and its 16 counties for businesses with and without paid employees. American Samoa is a U.S. territory in

the South Pacific Ocean.

Other findings:

- The manufacturing sector had \$522.7 million in sales, accounting for 40.9 percent of the overall total.
- Sales in the wholesale trade sector saw the largest increase (222.1 percent) among all sectors, from \$86.8 million in 2002 to \$279.6 million in 2007, when sales in this sector accounted for almost 21.9 percent of the island's total sales.
- The retail trade sector accounted for \$234.6 million in sales in 2007, up from \$154.6 million in 2002. The sector employed 1,747 people and had an annual payroll of \$18.9 million,

compared with 1,628 people and an annual payroll of \$14.6 million in 2002.

- In the construction sector, sales decreased from \$44.2 million in 2002 to \$23.6 million in 2007, while employment decreased from 563 workers in 2002 to 450 in 2007. The number of establishments also decreased from 64 in 2002 to 31 in 2007.
- Businesses in the Eastern District reported \$1 billion in total sales in 2007—which accounted for 80.8 percent of the total sales reported. In 2002, these businesses had sales of \$737.4 million, accounting for 74.2 percent of total sales

(\$993.9 million).

- In 2007, American Samoa had 75 establishments with 20 or more employees, which accounted for 9.2 percent of all businesses and 76.4 percent (\$997 million) of total sales. This compared with 2002, when American Samoa had 66 establishments with 20 or more employees, accounting for 6.2 percent of all businesses and 79.9 percent (\$794.4 million) of total sales.
- In 2007, American Samoa had 210 establishments with no paid employees, representing 25.9 percent of all businesses, and accounting for 0.9 percent (\$11.3 million) of total sales. (U.S. Census Bureau)



AUG 31, 1999

CNMI maps out plan for hearings

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio met for two hours yesterday with Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan, CNMI resident representative to Washington Juan N. Babauta, leaders of the Legislature and their legal counsels to plan a strategy for the upcoming hearings in the U.S. Congress next month. He, however, dodged questions from reporters regarding specific details of the discussion, saying only that they are preparing to draw up a “united position” when they appear before the House Resources Committee as well as the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in Washington D.C.

AGO ordered to release confiscated garment items

Superior Court Associate Judge Timothy Bellas has ordered the Attorney General's Office to release the garment items confiscated by government agents from a factory during a raid last year. Bellas issued the judgment last week in favor of Man On Enterprises Inc., which the Department of Labor and Immigration had accused of using its business to violate immigration laws. During the raid conducted on Oct. 21, 1998, government agents seized 46 sacks containing 5,500 garment products. The garments were seized without a warrant. AGO had filed with the court a petition seeking forfeiture of Man On's properties on grounds that the garments were “used” in harboring and employing illegal aliens.

AUG 31, 2000

MRC president says: Marina hearing a 'kangaroo court'

Emotions ran high as the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic, Development and Programs began its oversight investigation yesterday into the operations of the financially-troubled Outer Cove Marina. Boat owners and tour operators complaining of high fees and unsafe structures accused the government of failing to resolve the problems for the last three years, which they claimed have forced some of the businesses to close down. Anthony Pellegrino, president of Marine Revitalization Corp. which operates the marina and has been at the center of the squabble, described the hearing at one point as a “kangaroo court,” referring to term of biased judgment even before the trial begins.

Ban on deported aliens awaits Teno approval

Legislation proposing a permanent ban on reentry of deported aliens into the CNMI is awaiting action by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio after the House of Representatives yesterday gave its stamp of approval on SB 12-2. The House Committee on Judicial and Government Operations endorsed the proposal, noting the ban would be in the best interest of law-abiding residents on the islands. “If an alien cannot abide by our laws, and has subjected themselves to deportation, then they should forfeit the privilege of being here,” it said in a report adopted by the lower house.

AUG 31, 2001

Police score year's biggest drug bust

Government operatives foiled the escape try of a suspected drug trafficker, who allegedly yielded some 170 grams of crystal methamphetamine, also known as “ice,” which police claimed to be the biggest drug seizure in the CNMI this year. Unlike other big seizures, which usually happens in ports, Department of Public Safety sources claimed the alleged confiscation of ice from suspect David Tanaka Diaz was the biggest drug seizure on land in the past three years. “It's already on land, not on the border [of the CNMI].” Besides ice, more than an ounce of marijuana was also seized from Diaz, according to Kevin Lynch, chief prosecutor of the Attorney General's Office.

CNMI sees birth of 2nd college

The State Board of Regents granted the Eucon International College yesterday provisional license to function as an institution for higher learning, making Eucon the CNMI's second post secondary educational institution. The BOR, the Commonwealth's sole postsecondary licensing body, accorded Eucon a nine-month provisional license effective September 1, 2001, to May 31, 2002. Within this period, Eucon is expected to comply with other regulations set forth in BOR's licensing requirements, including providing the regents a list of the college's teaching faculty and a roster of its students. Eucon President Dr. Christian Wei explained that without the postsecondary license, the institution could not previously conform to the two specific requirements.

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

ADMINISTRATIVE DOCKET ACT OF 2006

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission provides public notice that it is considering the adoption of an administrative order governing certificates of public convenience and necessity for telecommunications services in the Commonwealth pursuant to its authority under 4 CMC §§ 8409[m][4] and 8457. The proposed order is available for public inspection at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's office at the Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan and on the Chamber's website: www.saipanchamber.com.

The Commission invites public comment regarding the proposed order, which should be submitted by either hand delivery to the Chamber's office or by email to kyle.calabrese@gmail.com not later than September 18, 2009. Inquiries regarding the proposed order should be referred to Commissioner Calabrese at the above email address.

August 19, 2009.


Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission
Special Business Meeting
5:00 p.m. Thursday September 3, 2009
Saipan Chamber of Commerce Office
Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan.

Meeting Notice


Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will conduct a special business meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday September 3, 2009 at the offices of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome. Reports and other documents relevant to the agenda can be found on the Chamber website under Public Utilities.

Agenda

1. Call to order – quorum
2. Approval of minutes of April 2 and June 20, 2009 meetings
3. Docket 09-1: CUC Electric Division:
 - Hearing examiner report - LEAC rate [April – September 2009] and related matters
 - LEAC order
 - Georgetown report regarding American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
 - CUC petition for approval of CDA preferred stock transaction
4. Docket 09-2: CUC Water and Wastewater Divisions:
 - Georgetown report on water and wastewater lifeline rates
 - Hearing examiner report on proposed CUC revenue cycle audit and phase two of water and wastewater rate review
 - Status report on CUC interim financial plan under Federal Stipulated Order
5. Telecommunications:
 - Proposed administrative rule regarding certificates of public convenience and necessity
 - USAC certificates for Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation and PTI Pacifica Inc.
6. Administrative business:
 - Bank resolutions
 - Contract change orders
 - Protocol for CUC confirmation of need for regulatory assistance
 - Assessment orders for FY10 administrative expense budget
7. Other business



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.O. Box 502641 Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel. Nos.: (670) 664-3300 - 3302 • Fax: (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL MEDIA SERVICES
Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the “Open Government Act of 1992”, Notice is hereby given that a **Parole and Revocation Hearing** is scheduled for **September 16, 2009, (Wednesday)** beginning at 9:00a.m., and if need be, to continue on, **September 17, 2009, (Thursday)** at 9:00 a.m. at the Vicente Taman Seman Building, Department of Corrections Briefing/Training Room, Susupe, Saipan. The following items are included in the agenda:

I. Preliminary Matters		
1. Call to order		
2. Roll call		
3. Presence of Quorum		
II. Consent Items		
1. Adoption of Agenda		
2. Adoption of Parole Hearing Minutes - June 09, 2009		
III. Parole Application	BOP No.	Criminal Case No.
1. George Ilo	09-003	0300253D
2. Anthony B. Magofna	09-009	00-162B
3. Chuan Fei Huang	09-011	08-0100E
4. Simon Sebuu	09-012	07-0109E
5. Paqual K. Deleon Guerrero	09-013	07-0011
6. Scott Santos	09-014	08-0219
7. Benson John Dela Cruz	09-015	06-0237C
IV. Revocation	BOP No.	Criminal Case No.
1. Mark Wayne Torres	07-004	00-012D
V. Miscellaneous	BOP No.	Criminal Case No.
1. Dewayne Sibetang re: Psychiatric Evaluation Report	05-019	00-0164D
2. Pedro Omar re: CHC Medical Status	09-001	02-0339C
VI. Other		
Parole Matters		
VII. Adjournment		

If you have any questions, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman, Board of Parole

August 27, 2009

PRIORITY OF SERVICE

Pursuant to the Jobs for Veterans Act (US PL 107-288) (38 USC 4215), priority of service is provided to veterans (and certain spouses) who otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for all employment and training programs funded by the USDOL to include funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

For more information, contact WIA at 664-1704; 1707;1708 and 1757 or email us at gov.wia@pticom.com.

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration.

PSS employs 150 teacher aides

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System has 150 teacher aides that will be working in classrooms beginning Sept. 8, the start of School Year 2009-2010, according to Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan in her report to the Board of Education Wednesday last week.

Sablan also disclosed that, in a survey conducted by the system, many of these teacher aides prefer to stay as teacher assistants, providing help to regular classroom teachers.

However, as part of goals to have all personnel be deemed highly qualified by 2011, PSS needs to aggressively work with this group to upgrade and equip them with better teaching tools, she said.

"We will work with them to encourage them to get their degrees so we will have a smooth transition [from teacher aides to regular classroom teachers]," Sablan told the board.

Unlike regular classroom teachers, teacher aides and assistants are provided a lower salary based on the compensation plan approved by the board. Renewal of their one-year contract is subject to the principal's recommendation.

New teachers

As of Thursday, PSS has signed

the employment contracts of over 80 new teachers, mostly from off-island.

The teaching population in public schools is expected to jump this year as a result of the many positions that were restored by PSS through the stimulus money.

As of last month, highly qualified teachers at the system remain at 69 percent while the rest are either waiting for the results of their Praxis or have yet to take the tests.

There are three requirements to become an HQT: degree, valid certification, and Praxis.

Sablan said PSS will also form a committee that will focus its efforts on local capacity building such as nurturing and enticing high school seniors to join PSS in the future.

Friday was the first day of

Saipan Rotary announces new e-mail contact

Continuing its mission to actively engage the community, the Rotary Club of Saipan announces a new e-mail contact for weekly guest speaker invitations and information, at saipan-rotary@gmail.com.

"This year's theme for Rotary International is 'The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands,' providing a more hands-on approach for our Rotary volunteers and community partners," said president Kim Forrester.

"We are inviting the community to send us their requests

orientation for newly hired teachers where about 50 individuals showed up at Marianas High School to participate in the whole-day discussion with PSS officials and representatives.

Coreen Palacios, PSS Human Resource Office director, was among the facilitators who helped orient the new teachers.

Of those who attended, some were teacher aides and teacher assistants.

The newly hired educators, Palacios said, will be assigned in various public schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Among the topics in Friday's orientation were basic information about PSS, requirements and certifications, contracts and responsibilities, goals and missions, as well as the system's and teachers' expectations.

for guest speakers to this new e-mail and really allow for opportunities to grow in terms of us networking and sharing resources when we can," he said.

Government agencies, community organizations and groups, event coordinators and such are invited to send a request to speak at the Saipan Rotary Club meetings held every Tuesday.

The Saipan Rotary Club just completed notable projects such as the Youth Skate Park in Gualo Rai and the Peace Memorial at the American Memorial Park. (PR)

FRIENDS FOR JUAN PAN & JOSEPH NORITA TENORIO GUERRERO & CAMACHO

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date: September 12, 2009

Location: Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort,
West Course

Time: 7:00am - Show Time

8:00am - Shot Gun Start

Donation: \$85.00



EXPERIENCE • HARD WORK • SOLUTIONS

Are you 18 years or older?

Have you been providing unpaid services to family members?

Been dependent
on the income of another family member but
no longer supported by that
income and are you unemployed or underemployed
and experiencing difficulty
obtaining or upgrading employment?

If you answer "YES" to all of these questions contact WIA at 664-1704/5 7& 8. You may be able to qualify for services as a Displaced Homemaker under WIA's Dislocated Worker Funding Program. All other program eligibility requirements applies.

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration

NOTIFICATION OF WIA DISLOCATED WORKER FUNDING PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

CATEGORY A: GENERAL DISLOCATED WORKERS. To qualify, an individual must meet the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment;
2. Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation; OR has been employed or attached to the workforce for a duration sufficient to demonstrate to WIA, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to insufficient earnings or having performed services for an employer that were not covered under a state unemployment compensation law; and
3. Is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation.

CATEGORY B: PLANT CLOSURE. To qualify, an individual must meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, a plant, facility, or enterprise;
2. Is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close within 180 days; or
3. For purposes of eligibility to receive services other than training, intensive or supportive services under WIA, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close.

CATEGORY C: SELF-EMPLOYED or UNEMPLOYED. To qualify, an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Was self-employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT WIA AT 664-1704; 1707; 1708 OR 1757 or email us at gov.wia@pticom.com. All other program eligibility applies.

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Swine flu scenario

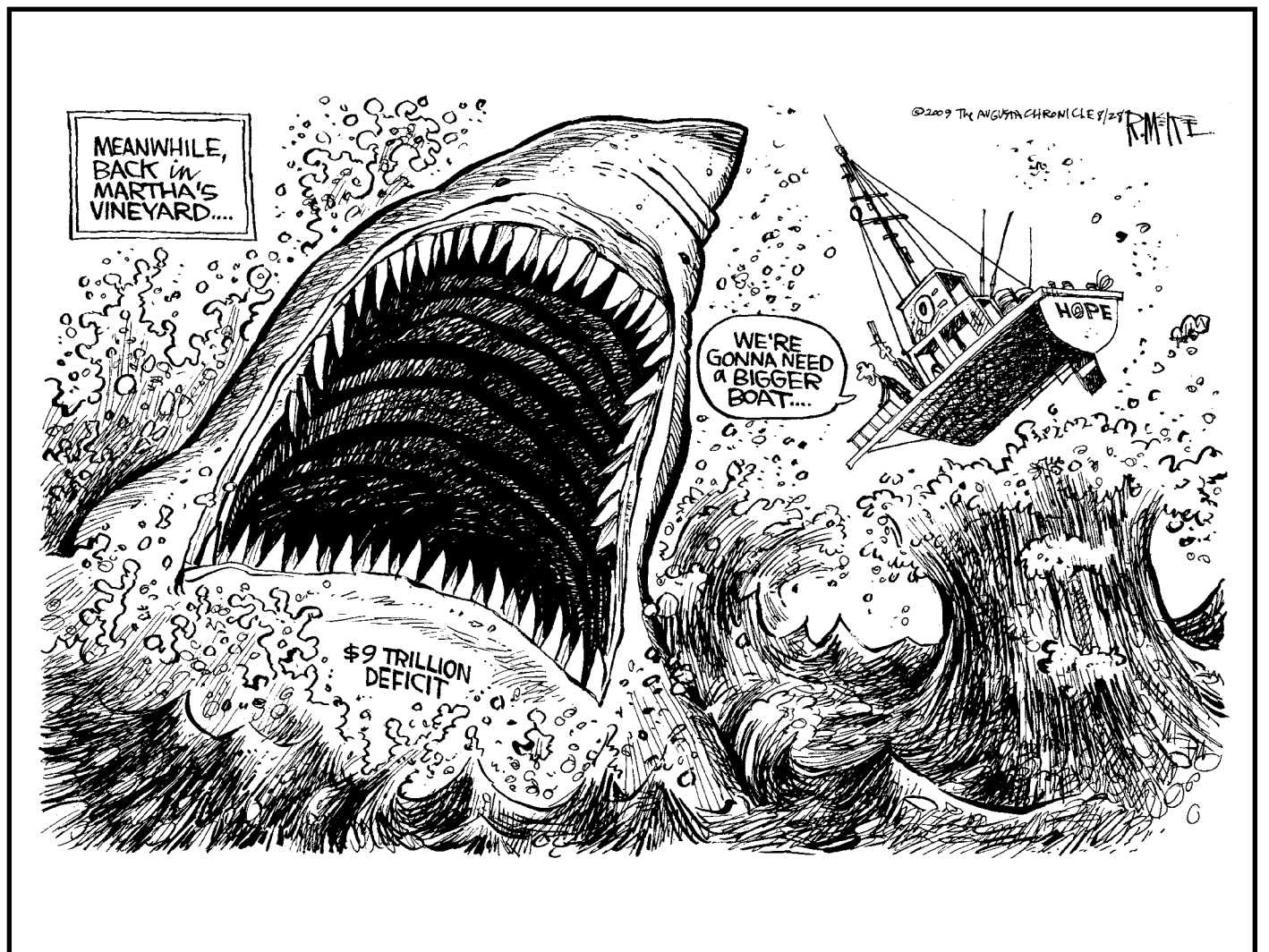
The report from the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology on the nation's readiness for the approaching resurgence of the swine flu certainly grabbed our attention. While it praised the Obama administration's efforts, it laid out a frightening scenario. Half the U.S. population could become infected with the H1N1 virus. Up to 1.8 million people could be hospitalized. And as many as 90,000 could die. That's more than double the number who die of seasonal flu. But when you're perusing the 86-page report, there are two key statements to keep in mind: "this is a planning scenario, not a prediction" and "the 2009-H1N1 virus does not thus far seem to show the virulence associated with the devastating pandemic of 1918-19."

Swine flu burst onto the scene in Mexico in April and quickly spread around the globe. The World Health Organization reports that as of last week there have been more than 182,000 confirmed cases and 1,799 deaths attributable to H1N1 in 177 countries. The latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show 7,983 hospitalizations and 522 deaths in the United States caused by swine flu. While the WHO classifies the H1N1 virus as a phase 6 pandemic because of its reach, it takes great pains to point out that in terms of severity, the pandemic is "moderate" because people generally recover without the need for hospitalization or medical care.

Where there is justifiable concern is over who is susceptible to becoming infected. Unlike seasonal influenza, which strikes the elderly and others with weak immune systems, the swine flu has sickened healthy, young adults. With the new school year upon us, the potential for rapid spread of swine flu—and the educational and economic disruption that come with it—is high. Another area of concern is whether enough vaccine will be ready and available for those most likely to become infected. Mid-October is the forecast for having 45 million to 52 million doses of vaccine available. That's when swine flu infection is expected to be at its peak. The administration is pushing the five vaccine manufacturers to speed production of an initial batch that would be available by next month and given to the most vulnerable age and disease groups, such as diabetics.

It remains true that there is no reason to panic. Scientists tracking the swine flu's spread across the Southern Hemisphere have not detected a mutation that would make it more dangerous. This is good news. Until a vaccine is widely available, you are your best protection against H1N1. Wash your hands. Cover your cough or sneeze. Stay home if you're sick and keep your children home if they are sick. And for more information go to www.flu.gov.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



Help me to better understand why

Today I want to ask you, the readers, to explain why the following issues continue on Saipan so that I can understand them better. I am trying to figure out why they happen and why little is done to correct them. I am not complaining. But by understanding them and taking steps to change them, we can improve our lives in these beautiful islands. We must accept the fact that we are part of the world scene, not isolated anymore.

Several years ago the Legislature and the Administration made a law that no persons or animals were allowed to ride in the back of a pickup truck without some sort of device to buckle them. Yet daily many adults as well as children and animals ride on the back of pickup trucks without any restraints such as seat belts. However if we don't buckle up in a car, we are fined. Why do we allow this? Which is more dangerous? I need someone to explain why this is allowed after a law was passed prohibiting this.

Several people have been killed or injured from falling out of open pickup trucks. About four months ago a 19-year-old youth was so seriously injured that he is still in the hospital in the Philippines recovering. How many more have to be killed or injured before we wake up? I don't understand how we allow this to continue. Do other places such as Guam and Hawaii allow people to ride in the back of a pickup? Why was the law passed?

Another matter I don't understand. Recently our former lieutenant governor and several of his relatives were sentenced to jail for using CUC money illegally. If you recall they were tried in federal court for misusing federal funds.

I have read many reports issued by the OPA showing abuse of power and the illegal use of local funds, but I don't recall anyone being tried even after they have been caught. The local money illegally taken totals over several million dollars. Yet not one single person has been prosecuted. Why not? I guess the answer is if you touch federal money you will be prosecuted. But if you take local funds for your own use, you will get away with it. Why is that?

Isn't stealing stealing, regardless of the source? Why do relatives and friends excuse such crimes and make a mockery of justice? To me a crime is a crime regardless of who commits it. Is it because these people are well connected while the ordinary criminal is not? Please help me understand better.

Consider this. The Commonwealth Hospital Center does not allow alien doctors except Canadian doctors to practice medicine in the CNMI. Yet the CHC spends thousands of dollars yearly on referrals sending patients to hospitals in the Philippines for treatment. However the same doctors that treat you and me in the Philippines cannot come here to practice. Excuse me, but I don't see the logic here. Someone please explain this to me.

Another thing that puzzles me is how the government gets away without paying its bills. Yet it has millions of dollars to squander on many unnecessary items. Ask to see the list over the

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



past four-five years.

Please explain why the government refuses to pay money to the Retirement Fund that it has committed to pay for pensions for its retirees? Isn't that a moral obligation? Why does it have to go to court and have it force the government pay its obligation. It is estimated that the Fund will run out of money in three years or less. Think of the devastation it will cause in the community. Would you keep working for a government that breaks its promises?

Please explain why the government refuses to pay its debt to MRC and is allowing it to accrue huge interest each month? Why does it have to go to court and have it force the government to pay its obligation? Why is this case pending over nine years? It has been decided against the government in four different trials.

The sad thing is that all these cases have been ruled on by the Superior Court against the government. Despite the rulings the government is now challenging the courts, stating that it has no right to enforce the government to pay its debts. If the courts do not have the right to enforce laws, then what good are they?

The government's only defense is "We don't have the money." The next time your home or car is to be repossessed by the bank, tell it you are like the government. You don't have the money and don't have to pay your obligations. See their reaction. Try telling that excuse to the government's tax collector when your taxes are due.

What a bad message it sends to all of us who do any business with the government. If we sign a contract to perform a service with the government, what assurance do we have for payment? When an investor places his trust and money in the CNMI, will he be protected and have his promises fulfilled? I wonder how the current investors feel about the government not willing to honor its debts?

As a child I was taught to respect my government. I was taught that its duty is to better our lives and to keep order. Who are we to believe under these circumstances? What has happened to trust and belief in our government?

On another matter, the other day I had a discussion with a former member of the Senate. He insisted that federalization be postponed to give the local people more time to prepare for it. I asked exactly what are the people doing now to prepare for fed-

See HELP on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Knowing the social process

Been writing about the triad of *knowing, doing, and being* as a contentless screen in understanding any social unit, individual and corporate, to describe ones identity, vocation, and lifestyle.

Physics at the level of the photon is not clear whether light is a string of particles lined up to emit energy, or an energy-generating wave that continuously undulates through a spectrum. The science of particles is the science of substances; the science of wave is the science of processes. Most of our accumulated knowledge is couched in the metaphors of substance. Only in our time have we paid attention to the subatomic level of existence where fields of energy behave like waves in addition to acting also like particles.

At the macro level, as it is in the micro level, one can view reality from the perspective of process rather than substance. But first, we need to acknowledge that Newtonian mechanics ushered incredible scientific advances and social progress that propelled the industrial revolution to unimagined heights. The image of being a mechanistic human that operates with precision like a tightly wound clock developed numerous cognitive disciplines. Unfortunately, it also triggered social stratification that favored the abstract over the sensory, and promoted those who fitted the ideal over the fluid and imperfect many. We created a moralism that insisted we had to fit a mold in order to be normal, that those with cognitive skills are valued over manual labor, with tragic consequences.

Process thinking allows us to view society as a process, not from the polarity of differing perspectives, but from the development of a journey from start to completion. Development efforts—whether it is economic, political, or cultural—can be perceived as organic greenhouses where growth and decay transpire rather than as blueprints where benchmarks are adhered to, standards followed, and rigid specifications attained.

What would it mean to shift paradigm and begin looking at human life not as a finished product out to perform a prescribed function, which it needs to learn every step of the way, to being a finite but growing organism that flourishes and decays?

The Institute of Cultural Affairs International created a contentless screen to understand the workings of the social process from a dynamo rather than stasis. As a Social Studies teacher with PSS, I used the screen to guide my curriculum preparation, and had PSS been inclined, would have been willing to integrate the various disjointed Social Studies courses in the current curriculum into a coherent and interrelated one. Unfortunately, the task did not fit into the curriculum development objectives of PSS and I failed to show that making the effort was relevant to current standards and benchmarks.

Tradision Peska

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Deste antigu na komunitat Chamorro, peskan tasi establisau komu tradision yan kutturán natibu. Estague un`manera `nai mana guaguaha mantension familia. Dos klasen peska guaha: Halum yan hiyuñg rubentasion. Gi katkuet modun peska, pot mantension familia. Este na offisiu hagas kutturán natibu guine. Ha konfitma i petmanente na relasion natibu yan i tasi gi oriyaña.

Estorian antigu na usun tasi, klaru na i natibu pumepeska kiñientus (500) miyas gi hiyuñg rubentasion nu i man-dañkulu siha na guihan. Este na tradision ha konfitma na matuñgu as guelu yan guela oriyán tasin iya Marianas deste 4,000 años antes. Este na modun linala ha konfitma na kutturán yan tradision natibu i tasi diariamente.

Klaru na ti nuebu este na asuntu i usun tasi gi mantension tautauta deste tiempun antigu. Pot este na rason na metgut i natibu gi este na direchu. Hagas patti este na banda gi linala`ta. Ti siña un` chapag hafa hagas tradision yan kutturán petmanente na relasion tasi yan natibu. Naturat este na tradision deste antes.

Nevertheless, the need to think process rather than substance has consequences. The current adversarial tone of many different perspectives publicly expressed in forums and/or published/broadcast media would not be necessary if we understand that a perspective is only a point in a process, not a polarization of solid positions in a static philosophical system or economic ideology. Process would let us think in concretion rather than abstraction. For example, at any meeting, when someone stands up and say, “I disagree,” a facilitator would gently respond with, “OK, tell us what you see differently.” Polarity is the result of mechanistic dialectical thinking that builds in the dialectic of thesis-antithesis; on the other hand, built in to the perspective of process is the quality of flow, fluidity and flexibility.

Here is what a view of the social process might look like. Were we to understand that any social unit has to stay in being (economic), have means of making decisions (political), and create metaphors to ground significance and meaning (cultural), these three dynamics would be present in any activity rather than as rigid academic disciplines experienced as disparate courses.

Economic

Economics as a course in high school deals with the abstraction of finance as it relates to the activities of trade and commerce dictated by the law of supply and demand. This is obviously inadequate especially now that it has become clear the United States has not had a balanced budget since 1835, and the national economy has been fueled on the promise of future earnings rather than on the inventory of current assets. We’ve been living off our progeny’s future!

The social process screen would first inventory the *resource* of natural, human, technological capital, from which the *production* instruments, forces, and systems would create goods and services that flows into *distribution* patterns that cover property claims, exchange mechanisms, and consumption plans.

Viewed this way, our economist would not have to spend too much time and effort harping over or against socialist, capitalist, and communist ideologies because it would be irrelevant. On the other hand, we would readily spot a Ponzi scheme or the high-falutin’ abstractions of derivatives being shoved down our throats.

Political

Partisan party politics is currently practiced as parceling clan-anchored power and rewarding voting patronage. Representative democracy depends on occasional election rites that select one to represent many. What if we practiced participatory democracy that engages every citizen to be concerned about communal or-

Fuera de diariu na usun kineni` guihan, dumaña i natibu ya man-peska para fiestan maseha manu na soñgsoñg, fandañgu yan otru siha okasion tat komu finatai. Mapeskaye i familia komu ayudu gi chechu linahyan estake magpu i lisayun guma. Ayu lokue i umayau salape pot offisiun peska esta ha atotga mumattigue man-ayuda sa` tradision tanu i para un` lagnus i yo`asi` na kanaimu para un` ayuda i prohimumu piot gi oran chinatsaga. Estague` mina likidu yan fitme dinaña natibu maseha ñgaian na tiempu.

Huñgan makat i kinalamtem pagu lau ti sumeha i natibu gi metgut na kutturán ayudu gi prohimuña. Deste antes este na kuttura malulug gi famaguonta niha. Siha lokue kumatga ennao na krineansa mona gi linala` niha. Mas masimientu dinaña familia gi todo atmos banda: minagof yan chinatsaga. Estague` mina kontetentuyu gi haanihu i gaige este na finaguen mañainata gi korason famaguonta. Maseha makat, tat ti prumisentague man-ayuda sa` kustumbren tanu este gi halum katma `sino pagyu.

Mampus hana` humimiddiyu sentadan guihan. Ha koniyu` tatte `nai pumeska i Sainata yan i man-apostules siha. Dispues, homlu` na neñkanu para i tatautauta. Mauleg ta meskla yan otru siha putahen natibu gi sentadata. Deste fresku, tinala`, tininu, kaddu yan

ate be enough? Think how much better they would work with the Administration? Don’t you think we would have better laws? Think of all the millions of dollars we would save. Unless I am mistaken, Guam has only 15 lawmakers with a much larger population.

We need a mayor’ office to do what? Spend money we don’t have? Please explain why we need a mayor’s office? Can’t the central government do what the mayor’s office does? Please explain why this useless office is allowed to continue.

Anyone who works for the government knows he has a job for the next 20 years or longer if he prefers. Yet we wonder why we never have enough money to operate the government for the private sector. Why are we subsidizing only the needs of the public sector? When about 80 percent of the budget is for salaries, how much is left to serve the private sector’s needs? This situation

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.

der maintained by common defense, domestic tranquility, legal base through the functioning of communal *justice* defined by legislative consensus, judicial procedures, executive authority, in order to ensure communal *welfare* of secure existence, guarantee freedoms, significant engagement?

Were we to do this, we would not have to scream at each other across the aisle when talking about health care because we would recognize that to be a right from our cultural context rather than as a narrow privilege from a limiting economic perspective. We would haggle over the “how” rather than on “whether or not.”

Cultural

The recovery of the agrarian steadfastness of the *taotao tano* and the navigational skills of the *taotao tasi* is not to be taken lightly. A people’s culture that involves its community *wisdom* represented by useful skills, accumulated knowledge, final meanings, demonstrated by its community *style* reflected by cyclical roles, procreative schemes, societal structures, and sustained by its community *symbols* stored in its language, art, religion defines the meaning and significance of being a member of a social group. When the above dynamics are used to view the Chamorros and the Carolinians, the Japanese and the Koreans, the Chinese and the Filipinos, the Hindu and the Moslem, and our vast commonalities seen along insignificant differences, we would not be so lost in the thickness of our prejudices and racism that currently color our relationships.

The careful reader will notice that the screen offers a triad/trilogy of categories with each category divisible to another level of threes. The acute political activist will recognize the need to accelerate our communal conversations in order to create a common mind, and our cultural warriors will see that we gain more synergy when we seek our identity in our common humanity rather than in the disparity brought by the dissimilarity (only 3 percent) of our genes.

The next two musings will cover *doing method skills* and *being humanity’s mature spirit*. Our usual caveat: if interested, you are welcome; if not, see you at the next bend.

inasni, todú mauleg fuera ke un` gulusini maa`sin `sino gupot hau yan tatkilu haga`.

■■■

Ilegña i fino` un` menhalum na amko: Yangin unnae` i tautau guihan siempre u chochu un` dia. Lau yangin un` fanague pumeska, siempre u chochu guihan esta`i finataiña. Pot esso na man-animu man-mafanague famaguonta pot linala deste peskan tasi yan halum tanu, gumualu yan otru siha offisiu nu i probichosu.

■■■

`Nai tanoresyu kuarentai tantus años antes, sessu hu ñgiñgi paupau na linalagun kafe gi takuri an` mamomokatyu para i gima Yuus `an chatagmag. Mañge` na pua finatinas siha gi aire. Era guihe na tiempu hasan fogun elektrisida (stove). Memegaiña fogun hayu ni a`asu deste chagchag chatagmag.

Gi biradahu an lemlim tautau ginen lisayon gima Yuus `sino Ora Santa, oppan gi aire man-paupau na tininun guihan yan katne ya esta ha atisa mas i ñalañghu. Hu chagi guine gi alacha mamokat gi hagas chalan para i gima Yuus, taigae ayu na paupau kafe, tininun guihan yan katne sa` puru fogun atileg gi halum gima tautau siha. Dañgkulu na tinilaika antes yan pagu.

HELP ME

From Page 10

eralization since it has been announced for a long period of time. He could not answer.

Please explain what exactly are we doing to prepare for it? I hear discussions but I see no activity ongoing. Please educate me on what is happening. I want to understand.

Why do we insist on having 29 lawmakers—20 in the Legislature and nine in the Senate? On top of that we also have a mayor’s office with dozens of employees. Are our laws any better with all these people deciding our way of life?

Wouldn’t five lawmakers in the Legislature and three in the Sen-

needs a lot of explaining.






I wish to reiterate that I am not complaining about what I have written above. Instead I am asking all of us to think about how we can seek better ways to do things to improve our lives. We must stop thinking that we are a small cluster of islands neatly tucked away somewhere in the Pacific. The world is watching closely what we do and how we do it. We must accept that fact. We cannot keep making excuses by saying that it is our culture.

When we opted to join the United States and accept its passport, its money and protection, we gave away many of our previous rights. There are no free lunches. I feel strongly that by trying to cling to days gone by is one of the main reasons we face the economic and political dilemma we are in. Think about it. We cannot have our cake and eat it! Have a great day!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲89 ▼77
Palau	Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲88 ▼79
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲78 ▼74
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲89 ▼75
Majuro	Cloudy	▲86 ▼77

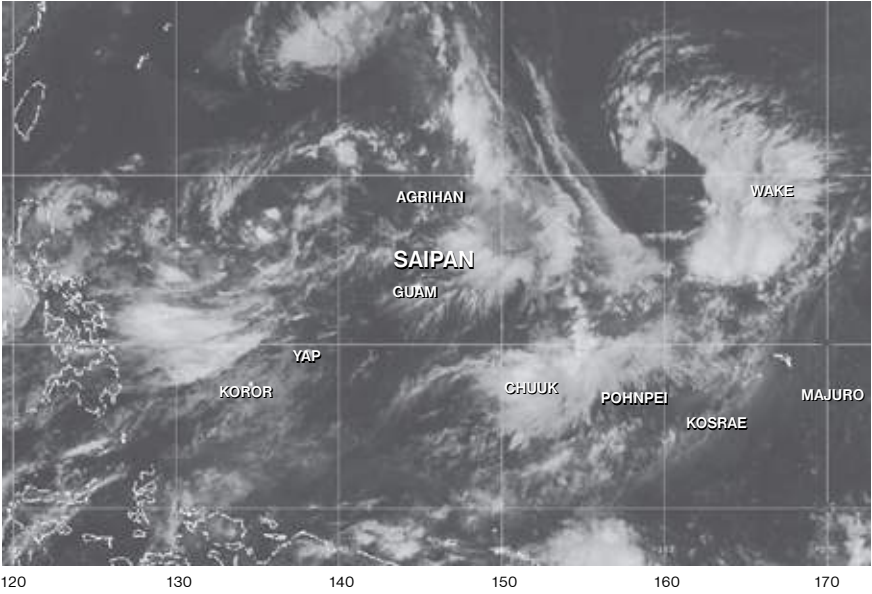
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲60 ▼52
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲81 ▼61
Hong Kong	Showers	▲90 ▼81
Honolulu	Sunny	▲89 ▼76
London	Showers	▲75 ▼61
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼66
Manila	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Melbourne	Rain	▲59 ▼43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼78
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲74 ▼61
Osaka	Showers	▲86 ▼73
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲79 ▼65
Pusan	Rain	▲74 ▼71
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲85 ▼66
Salem	Sunny	▲83 ▼55
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲70 ▼56
Seoul	Showers	▲81 ▼61
Tokyo	Rain	▲74 ▼70
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲71 ▼57

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:16 AM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:05 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
6:29 PM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:39 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Depression 02C is centered near 15N179E approximately 2000 miles east of the Mariana Islands. Scattered showers can be found within 75 miles of the storm center. For more detailed information, see JTWC bulletins under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and public advisories issued by the National Weather Service under the header WTPQ31 PGUM. The monsoon trough extends eastward from Luzon to a circulation near 17N137E then continues north-northeastward to beyond 25N at 140E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found south of the trough axis within an area bounded by a line from 8N130E to 10N135E to 15N136E to 15N130E back to 8N130E and northwest of the Marianas between 20N and 23N from 140E to 145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found in convergent southerly winds east of the Marianas within an area bounded by a line from 25N148E to 14N148E to 15N155E to 25N149E back to 25N148E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:29 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:27 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:29 PM	2:07 AM
Tuesday	4:11 PM	2:59 AM
Wednesday	4:51 PM	3:49 AM
Thursday	5:28 PM	4:38 AM
Friday	6:04 PM	5:26 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
■ CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.
■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN C09598 3:15am 3:50am 5, 6 C09312 1:20pm 1:55pm 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 2:10am 2:40am 5, 6 C09312 12:10pm 12:40pm 6
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09597 11:50am 1:20pm 1, 7 via ROP C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4, 5 C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09598 2:10am 3:50am 5, 6 via ROP C09316 2:20am 3:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:20am 11:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C09312 12:10pm 1:55pm 6 via ROP C09602 2:00pm 2:50pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) C0941 5:30am 8:05am Daily NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily C0943 5:25pm 8:00pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN C0942 9:25am 1:55pm Daily NW76 10:00am 2:35pm Daily NW77 6:35pm 1:40am+1 Daily via NGO NW100 8:45pm 1:20am+1 Daily C0944 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:55pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO) NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN NW77 9:10pm 1:40am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN CZ3007 7:30pm 2:40am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/703 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA-SAIPAN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM OZ716/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Letters to the Editor

Bitter versus better

I want to thank Marvin S. Pangelinan and Alex “The Colonel” Sablan for their letters to the editor which addressed some issues I wrote about recently. Obviously, we have differences of opinion regarding the current administration’s performance, and I applaud them for speaking from the heart.

Colonel, I know you have health issues, and I pray for your health and for your family. Regarding your letter, I do want you to know that I have never attacked or tried to intimidate the employees of CHC, from the doctors and nurses to the kind cashiers. They all work in a very stressful environment, and they should be appreciated for all they do. If you read my letter again, I simply stated that our fine doctors need the necessary tools to their job, along with adequate rest.

Colonel, have you ever met or had any exchanges with some of the doctors who departed suddenly? These are doctors that came here with the best intentions, yet they are mistreated or disrespected. Some of them have to wait as long as five months before they receive their first paycheck! Is this how we take care of our doctors? As I stated in my previous letter, doctors are to be treated with respect, for they are here to help and heal our people.

Regarding Marvin’s differences of opinion with how CUC has been managed, or mismanaged, I want to let him know that I am always willing to sit down with him and open up a few contracts to dissect and discuss, and we can start with DCM. I’d also like to explain to him why Aggreko was not the best choice, and while it temporarily improved power production, there were other options on the table that could have been hooked up just as fast, for *half the cost!* My friend, part of good governance is making the right decisions by putting people’s interests first instead of friends and *familia*.

I think it is safe to say that there has been some unfairness when it comes to the way CUC customers have been treated. How is it possible that certain customers and corporations never got their power cut by CUC, even though they were in payment arrears? Yet, the one time someone is a bit late in making a payment to CUC, they are cut off immediately. Some are cut off without an explanation. Case in point Marvin, my power was cut off at my office a couple of years ago. I produced documents at CUC and showed that I still had a week to pay my CUC bill. I was told that I would have to pay my balance and pay a reconnection fee, regardless of whether or not my power was cut by mistake. I was told I could file a complaint and try to settle it later, but if I wanted my power to be hooked up immediately, I had to pay. So what did I do? I paid for it, and for the sake of my blood pressure and sanity, I took the loss and never went back to CUC again. So what is the problem here? *Management*. The frontline must be empowered to make the right decisions by their managers, and they must be trained and equipped to ensure that customers are treated fairly and with proper respect. As a friend of mine in the hotel industry once told me, “The customer is not always right, but the customer is the customer, and therefore must be treated with respect and kindness.”

Marvin, you called me “Bitter Ed.” I chuckled when I saw your article. As my dear friend from Sicily often says with a smile, “To know me is to love me!” Marvin, I am not bitter. I am simply a local island boy who cares deeply about the dismal state of our Commonwealth. I do not write because I am *bitter*—I write because I want things to become *better*! Ignoring problems will not make them go away. When wrongs and *cover-ups* are committed, they must be addressed and exposed in order for them to be corrected. Sadly, all the suggestions good citizens make to this administration continue to fall on deaf ears. But that doesn’t mean we will stop. I have learned that change is a gradual process, and it doesn’t

Commendable service

A letter in last Friday’s issue complained about poor service from one of the private water companies on island. Tony Pellegrino’s Saipan Ice and Water offered me a totally different experience. I complained to the person who delivered my water bottles earlier this week that the Saipan Ice water from my dispenser looked tainted. He took it with him, and within an hour, two other employees from Saipan Ice came to my house to investigate. They were polite, solicitous, informed. After exploring several possibilities—could the minerals not in the distilled water, with which I compared the Saipan Ice water, be making the difference?—they settled on the recently purchased bargain-basement pump as the likely culprit, and showed me where the interior spring showed signs of corrosion. Sure enough, when I replaced the pump with one of better quality, Saipan Ice’s water was just as clear as that of the distilled water. Truly commendable service! In other words, not all private water companies are the same.

Ruth Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

happen with one meeting, or one forum, or one hearing, or one protest, or one rally. It is perseverance mixed with humility that will eventually conquer the status quo.

As for this administration’s defenders, they are quick to point out that Governor Fitial is not to blame for all the problems the CNMI is faced with today. And they have a valid point to some degree, because he did inherit some problems. But that is not why he was elected. Governor Fitial, being the “businessman” that he is, knows full well that new CEOs are hired when a corporation is on the verge of collapse, or is having financial problems, or needs a new direction. Governor Fitial had four years to set a new course for the CNMI and to make decisions that would help not just his supporters, but every person living in the CNMI. Now tell me, is the CNMI better off today than it was four years ago?

Marvin, since you really don’t know me, please allow me to tell you a little bit about me. I think I can say I am from Saipan, especially after being a resident here for 36 years. I grew up on Navy Hill and in Susupe and am a product of the public school system, a proud MHS Dolphin. After attending NMC for a couple of years, I went off to Hawaii to get my bachelor’s degree, all the while working three jobs while attending classes full-time. I amassed a ton of credit card debt along with student loans and lived off of canned tuna and soba the last two months I was there. I was fortunate to come home and find a job. Sadly, many are not as fortunate. I’ve seen former students and friends who left the CNMI to get their college degree, only to come back to their home and find out they can’t find a job. Why? Because more often than not, they apply for a job they are highly qualified for, only to find out that it was given to a political supporter who is less qualified as payback. Don’t we want our children to have a fair chance to find a job when they come home? Sure, they can work from the ground up, which is certainly admirable. But what was the point of going to college for four or five years and incurring a huge college debt, only to come home and make minimum wage? Part of the reason of going to college is to find a good job and to be considered management material, not entry-level material. Marvin, would you consider this a fair statement?

Here’s something that I have been thinking about lately that I want to share with you, Marvin. I have godparents living in Oregon right now. They would like to come home. But they have some health issues, and CHC is ill-equipped to address their health concerns right now. The same thing can be said for hundreds of our people who have sent their parents to the U.S. so that they may live longer, or live more comfortably. So, as they grow older, we get to visit them once a year, if that, because the cost of travel is insanely high. Marvin, if we want our parents and aunts and uncles and grandparents to come home to live in the CNMI, we *must* have better technology and doctors who specialize in caring for their needs, along with emergency care. Do you know why it is difficult to attract the golden market from Asia to come to the CNMI

and retire and buy or lease condominiums and homes? It’s not because of visa problems, or Article 12. It’s because of inadequate health care. Can this be fixed? Certainly. But it won’t be as long as we have an administration that shoots for the status quo instead of shooting for the stars.

And speaking of shooting for the stars, there was once a president of the United States who spoke of putting a man on the moon, something that seemed unattainable at the time. In 1962, in a speech given at Rice University, President John F. Kennedy stated, “We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win...” President Kennedy had a vision and set the stage for space exploration, and by 1969, Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon!

To put things in perspective, if the United States can put a man on the moon some 40 years ago, then the CNMI should have no problem in fixing CUC, CHC, building its tourism base, and finding *real* investors.

Marvin, please know that one of the many unfulfilled promises made by this administration’s “Road Map to Better Times” was *transparency*. While this administration ignored a lawmaker’s request to see the financial records of how much was being spent on the governor’s lawsuit over federalization, she was denied access, even after the Superior Court ruled in her favor to disclose the financial records. To add insult to injury, this administration fought Rep. Tina Sablan all the way to the CNMI Supreme Court. Thank God our Supreme Court had the wisdom to agree with her and to order this administration to produce the documents. All the thousands of dollars wasted on court litigation could have been averted had Governor Fitial come clean and produced the documents in the first place. What is he hiding?? And spare us the nonsense that it will hurt the CNMI’s federalization lawsuit. All Rep. Sablan and the rest of the CNMI taxpayers wanted to know was, “How much was being spent?” and “Where was the money coming from?” This is only one of a thousand “differences” that I have with this current administration. I’ll save 30-day government employee contracts and the Flame Sako fiasco for another time and another letter.

I wish Marvin and the Colonel the very best in life, regardless of our differences of opinion. While we may be separated by political ideologies, let us remember we are bonded in our faith and in our love for our homeland. If we relentlessly pursue and debate all that is in the best interests of our people, I am confident we will eventually find ourselves on the same side.

May God bless the CNMI, and welcome home troops! Hooah!

Ed Propst
Dandan, Saipan

PUBLIC NOTICE

On August 25, 2009, Sorensen Television Systems, Inc. filed applications with the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C. for five (5) separate applications for new Low Power Television Stations to serve Garapan, Saipan, MP on Channels 34, 38, 40, 42 and 44, respectively. All of the proposed stations will operate with 2 kilowatts power from a transmitter site located at Gualo Rai Center II, Gualo Rai, Saipan, NMI.

Business

Chances of health compromise continue to fade



About a thousand people attend a rally supporting the passage of health care bills championed by the late Senator Ted Kennedy, Saturday, Aug. 29, 2009 in Times Square in New York. The event near Times Square began shortly after the funeral for U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy, and took on the feel of a tribute to the liberal leader. One person carried a sign that said, "TeddyCare for all." U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney told the crowd the bill will lower health care costs for almost everyone. The New York Democrat also invoked Kennedy, saying the senator understood the need for change. Opponents say the legislation will cost too much and diminish the quality of care.

Grameen shows poorest of poor can be creditworthy

BANGKOK (AP)—The global financial crisis has highlighted a curious success story: A bank that doles out loans to some of the world's poorest, least-creditworthy people continues to have a pay-back rate of nearly 100 percent.

Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus, known as the "banker to the poor," quips that the Grameen Bank he founded owes its success to "sub-sub-subprime borrowers" who also own nearly all the bank's equity.

When Yunus approached traditional banks over 30 years ago about lending to the poor in Bangladesh to start small businesses, he was told it could not be done.

But since 1983, the bank has lent more than \$8 billion to nearly 8 million people in Bangladesh who have had a 98 percent repayment rate. About 4

million more have been similarly helped through partner organizations in 38 other countries — with an average repayment rate of 95 percent.



Yunus

Yunus thinks his model could teach big commercial banks some lessons.

"We have now shown that the poorest of the poor can be creditworthy," he said in an interview with The Associated Press during a recent trip to Bangkok. "Our loan repayments are as high as ever."

Grameen takes on clients who have no collateral, no credit history and no lawyers. The vast majority of them are women. Most take out loans for \$200 or less each time.

Yunus attributes micro-lending's success to a system of "moral responsibility" that makes approval and repayment of the loan the concern of the

community as well as the individual borrower.

Here is how it normally works. A group of five prospective borrowers from similar social and economic positions come together to determine an appropriate loan for each. The request then goes before a larger council of borrowers, who are also shareholders in the bank, and finally to the bank for approval.

It's not entirely surprising that Grameen and other micro-finance institutions have been largely unscathed by the financial turmoil, said Mayumi Ozaki, a microfinance specialist at the Asian Development Bank. They generally support tiny businesses such as retail shops, vegetable growing and craft making that are not affected much by a global trade slowdown.

But the success of Grameen is also attributed to building relationships and trust.

province, a facility owned by FAW-affiliate Hongta Yunnan Automobile Manufacturing Co. Ltd., and in the northeastern city of Harbin, GM said in a statement.

Regulators shut banks in Calif, Md, Minn

WASHINGTON (AP)—Regulators have shut down banks in California, Maryland and Minnesota, pushing to 84 the number of bank failures this year amid the soured economy and rising loan defaults. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. said Friday it had taken

over the three banks: Affinity Bank, based in Ventura, Calif., with about \$1 billion in assets and \$922 million in deposits; Baltimore-based Bradford Bank, with \$452 million in assets and \$383 million in deposits; and Mainstreet Bank, based in Forest Lake, Minn., with assets of \$459 million and deposits of \$434 million. Pacific Western Bank, based in San Diego, agreed to assume the deposits and assets of Affinity Bank. In addition, the FDIC and Pacific Western agreed to share losses on about \$934 million of the failed bank's loans and other assets.

WASHINGTON (AP)—A leading GOP negotiator on health care struck a further blow to fading chances of a bipartisan compromise by saying Democratic proposals would restrict medical choices and make the country's "finances sicker without saving you money."

The criticism from Sen. Michael Enzi, R-Wyo., echoed that of many opponents of the Democratic plans under consideration in Congress. But Enzi's judgment was especially noteworthy because he is one of only three Republicans who have been willing to consider a bipartisan bill in the Senate.

In the Republicans' weekly radio and Internet address on

Saturday, Enzi said any health care legislation must lower medical costs for Americans without increasing deficits and the national debt.

"The bills introduced by congressional Democrats fail to meet these standards," he said.

Enzi, together with Republican Sens. Charles Grassley of Iowa and Olympia Snowe of Maine, has held talks with Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont. But the chance of a bipartisan breakthrough has diminished in the face of an effective public mobilization by opponents of Democratic proposals.

"I heard a lot of frustration and anger as I traveled across my home state this last few weeks," said Enzi, who has been targeted by critics for seeking to

negotiate on legislation. "People in Wyoming and across the country are anxious about what Washington has in mind. This is big. This is personal. This is one of the most important debates of our lifetime."

Hours after the address aired, about 1,000 people rallied in New York City in support of an overhaul. Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., told the crowd near Times Square about legislation that she said would lower costs for almost everyone.

Earlier, Enzi called for more competition among health insurers, for the ability of small businesses to band together across state lines to negotiate for lower-cost insurance plans, for tax breaks to help people buy insurance and for reducing malpractice lawsuits.

MELTDOWN 101

Why banks' struggles have worsened

By **MARCY GORDON**
AP BUSINESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Despite signs of an improving economy, the nation's banks are still struggling—in fact, the pace of bank failures has accelerated.

What would it take to turn the banking sector around? And what can people do to protect their savings in the meantime?

Here are some questions and answers about the wave of U.S. bank failures, as the latest quarterly snapshot of the industry painted a grim picture.

Q: How bad is this wave of failures?

A: A cascade of collapses began last year as the financial crisis struck.

Eighty-four banks have fallen so far this year as tumbling home prices and spiking unemployment pushed loan defaults upward. That's the largest number in a year since the early 1990s, at the apex of the savings and loan crisis. It compares with 25 bank failures last year and three in 2007.

The failures have sapped billions from the federal deposit insurance fund, which guarantees account holders' money when banks go under. The fund stood at \$10.4 billion in the second quarter, its lowest point since 1992.

The biggest failure this year: Colonial Bank, a heavy regional lender in real estate development based in Montgomery, Ala., which became the sixth-largest bank failure in U.S. history on Aug. 14. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. seized Colonial and sold its \$20 billion in deposits, 346 branches in five states and about \$22 billion of its assets to BB&T Corp.

Some analysts believe another 100 to 300 banks could fail before the crisis runs its course, largely because of souring loans for commercial real estate. The number of institutions on

the FDIC's internal "problem list"—those rated by examiners as having very low capital cushions against risk and other deficiencies—jumped to 416 at the end of June from 305 in the first quarter, the agency reported Thursday.

Q: What's behind this?

A: Banks around the country have run into trouble on their loans for construction and development, the fastest-growing category of troubled loans for U.S. banks, especially in overbuilt areas. Many companies have shut down in the recession, vacating shopping malls and office buildings financed by the loans.

Lots of banks have heavy concentrations of these loans in their lending portfolios, and some small banks are considered by regulators to be particularly vulnerable. Delinquent loan payments and defaults by commercial and residential developers have surged to the highest levels since the early 1990s, during the S&L crisis.

At the same time, some recent failures have been smaller banks brought down by garden-variety loans that have soured during the recession. Regulators say they're concerned about growing delinquencies on prime, conventional home loans.

Q: So even though the economy is starting to recover, banks are still struggling?

A: The condition of the banking industry is what economists call a lagging indicator: It falls behind the state of the economy because the problems take longer to percolate through banks, as opposed to other signposts such as consumer spending, gross domestic product or permits for building construction.

That means the pain will continue to weigh on the banking sector while the economy rebounds.

FDIC Chairman Sheila Bair offered a reminder on Thursday: "Banking industry performance is, as always, a lagging indicator."

Q: What will it take to turn the banking industry around?

A: Not much other than time, experts say.

"The only thing you could do is ... to ignore the losses that are already there," said Karen Shaw Petrou, managing partner of Federal Financial Analytics in Washington. That would be a terrible mistake, she said, noting that regulators' blind eye in the 1980s prolonged the S&L crisis.

"The best thing for the banking industry is just to take it on the chin and move on," she said.

Q: What about me? What can I do to protect my money in the bank?

A: Accounts are insured by the FDIC up to \$250,000 per depositor per bank. Joint accounts are insured up to that amount for each co-owner of the account; individual retirement accounts, or IRAs, held in banks are also insured.

If you have multiple individual accounts at one bank, it's important to structure them carefully so they don't exceed the limits. The FDIC has a calculator on its Web site called the electronic deposit insurance estimator, or EDIE, that can help determine how much money in deposit accounts, if any, exceeds the insurance limits. You can find it here: <http://tinyurl.com/lt3aok>.

For any money in a failed bank's deposit accounts that exceeds the insured limits, you become essentially a creditor of the bank. You would eventually recover some of your money, but the amount can range from 40 cents on the dollar up to the full amount. Recovery of the money could take months.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

GM China, China's FAW launch joint venture

SHANGHAI, China (AP)—General Motors China and state-owned automaker FAW launched a 2 billion yuan (\$293 million) joint venture Sunday to make light-duty trucks and vans. GM said the joint venture will initially use two existing factories and have a capacity of over 100,000 vehicles. The 50-50 joint venture will make FAW-branded vehicles for the Chinese market, GM said. Production will be at the existing factories in southwestern China's Yunnan

Nation

Kennedy laid to rest at Arlington, beside brothers

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Edward M. Kennedy was laid to rest Saturday night alongside slain brothers John and Robert on hallowed ground at Arlington National Cemetery, celebrated for “the dream he kept alive” across the decades since their deaths.

Crowds lined the streets of two cities on a day that marked the end of an American political era—outside Kennedy’s funeral in rainy Boston where he was eulogized by President Barack Obama, and later in the day in humid, late-summer Washington.

With flags over the Capitol flying at half-staff, his hearse stopped outside the Senate where he served for 47 years. His widow, Vicki, embraced former staff members in the crowd.

Later, at a graveside enveloped in deepening darkness, Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick offered sympathies to Kennedy relatives and “an extended family that must probably include most of America.”

A squad of seven riflemen fired three volleys in a traditional military funeral ritual, and a bugler sounded taps. Lighting flickered across the sky.

Hours earlier, Obama delivered the



Sen. Edward Kennedy’s grandchildren and family members kneel over his coffin during his burial service at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., Saturday, Aug. 29, 2009.

eulogy in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Boston, packed with row upon row of mourners—including former presidents George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter.

“He was given a gift of time that his brothers were not. And he used that time to touch as many lives and right

as many wrongs as the years would allow,” Obama said in remarks that also gently made mention of Kennedy’s “personal failings and setbacks.”

As a member of the Senate, Kennedy was a “veritable force of nature,” the president said. But more than that, he was the “baby of the family who be-

came its patriarch, the restless dreamer who became its rock.”

Those left behind to mourn “grieve his passing with the memories he gave, the good he did, the dream he kept alive” Obama said.

One of Kennedy’s sons, Patrick, wept quietly as another, Teddy Jr., spoke from the pulpit. Teddy Jr. recalled the day years ago, shortly after losing a leg to cancer, that he slipped walking up an icy driveway as he headed out to go sledding. “I started to cry and I said, ‘I’ll never be able to climb up that hill.’”

“And he lifted me up in his strong, gentle arms and said something I will never forget. He said, ‘I know you can do it. There is nothing that you can’t do.’”

Kennedy’s freshly excavated gravesite was on a gently sloping Virginia hillside, flanked by a pair of maple trees. His brother Robert, killed in 1968 while running for president, lies 100 feet away. It is another 100 feet to the eternal flame that has burned since 1963 for John F. Kennedy, president when he was assassinated.

The youngest brother died Tuesday at 77, more than a year after he was diagnosed with a brain tumor. An oak

cross, painted white, marked the head of his grave, and a flat marble footstone bore the simple inscription, “Edward Moore Kennedy 1932-2009.”

McCarrick, archbishop emeritus of Washington, read from a letter from Kennedy to Pope Benedict XVI, hand-delivered earlier this year by Obama.

“I know that I have been an imperfect human being but with the help of my faith I have tried to right my path,” the dying senator wrote. He wrote the pontiff “with deep humility to ask that you pray for me as my own health declines.”

The Vatican responded with a letter that said “his Holiness prays that in the days ahead you may be sustained in faith and hope.”

Morning rain beat down steadily as Kennedy’s coffin was borne by a military honor guard into the Catholic church, and again when it was brought back out for the flight to Washington and the military cemetery just across the Potomac River from Washington.

In life, the senator had visited the burial ground often to mourn his brothers, killed in their 40s, more than a generation ago, by assassins’ bullets.

7 found slain at Ga. mobile home, 2 badly hurt

BRUNSWICK, Ga. (AP)—Seven people were found slain and two critically injured Saturday at a mobile home park built on the grounds of a historic plantation in southeastern Georgia, police said.

Glynn County Police Chief Matt Doering called it the worst mass slaying

in his 25 years of police work in this coastal Georgia county. He wouldn’t say how the victims died.

“This is a record for us. We’ve never had such an incident with so many victims,” Doering told reporters. “It’s not a scene that I would want anybody to see.”

A family member called 911 at about 8 a.m. Saturday after discovering the bodies inside a dingy mobile home shaded by large, moss-draped oaks with an old boat in the front yard.

At an afternoon news conference, Doering declined to say whether police

believe the killer was among the dead or remained at large. No arrests had been made.

Investigators were talking to neighbors about whether they saw or heard anything unusual, but hadn’t found any witnesses to the crime. Police hadn’t interviewed the survivors, who remained in critical condition Saturday night.

“I assume they know something,

but we have not been able to speak to them,” the chief said.

All seven bodies were tentatively identified by Saturday evening. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation was scheduled to perform autopsies Sunday.

Doering said families of the victims had been notified, but he would not release any names or ages before receiving the autopsy results.

3 homes destroyed, many more threatened by Calif. fire

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A growing wildfire sending massive billows of smoke into the sky north of Los Angeles nearly tripled in size Saturday, injuring three residents, burning a small number of homes, knocking out power to many more and prompting thousands of evacuations in a number of mountain communities.

Mandatory evacuations were extended Saturday into neighborhoods in the canyons on the northwestern edge of Altadena, Glendale, Pasadena, La Crescenta and Big Tujunga Canyon, Forest Service spokesman Bruce Quintelier said.

The flames crept lower down the slopes of the San Gabriel Mountains despite winds blowing predominantly in the other direction, threatening more than 2,000 homes in the La Canada Flintridge area.

A few homes and about 25 recreational cabins have burned but exact numbers were not immediately available, said Forest Service spokesman Gabriel Alvarez.



‘AND SHE’S OFF’

Space shuttle Discovery launches from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Fla. Friday Aug. 28, 2009. Space shuttle Discovery’s astronauts steered closer to the international space station for a Sunday linkup, while checking their ship for any signs of launch damage. The routine survey began early Saturday evening and lasted well into the night. NASA officials say no fuel tank debris was observed hitting Discovery during Friday’s midnight liftoff. But the shuttle’s most vulnerable areas—the wings and nose—still needed to be checked with lasers and cameras on a boom attached to the robot arm. The images were beamed down for analysis.

Police review cases for connections to kidnap case

ANTIOCH, Calif. (AP)—Police on Saturday expanded their search to a property next to the home of a California couple charged with kidnapping a little girl 18 years ago as they looked for evidence linking them to other open cases in the area, including the unsolved murders of prostitutes.

Police from three agencies have been searching the home and large backyard of Nancy and Phillip Garrido since they were arrested Wednesday on suspicion of abducting Jaycee Lee Dugard. On Saturday, police wrapped yellow crime scene tape around the home and property next door.

Neighbors identified the house as belonging to Damon Robinson, who has lived next door to the Garridos for more than three years. Robinson’s then-girlfriend in 2006 called police after she saw tents and children in the backyard. The responding officer failed to discover the encampment where authorities say Dugard was kept captive.

Robinson could not be reached after his home was declared a crime scene. He earlier told The Associated Press that Phillip Garrido was the caretaker of the house until Robinson moved there in 2006.

Neighbor Janice Deitrich, 66, also said that Phillip Garrido would visit and help feed an elderly neighbor who lived in the house before Robinson.

Police said the cordoned off property was a crime scene but declined to comment further.

The investigations are “preliminary,” said Jimmy Lee, a spokesman for the Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Department, east of San Francisco Bay, declining to say what past cases were being reviewed.

Police in Pittsburg are investigating whether Phillip Garrido, whose home is in nearby Antioch, is linked to several unsolved murders of prostitutes in the early 1990s. Antioch police are also looking into unsolved cases but declined further details.



ACROSS THE NATION

Danny wets East Coast; Pacific storm strengthens

BOSTON (AP)—Heavy rain and dangerous rip currents from a weak tropical system emptied East Coast beaches for a second straight late-summer weekend, while a hurricane that could clip Mexico’s coast next week grew stronger in the Pacific. Jimena, the 10th named storm of the Pacific season, quickly became a Category

2 storm with maximum sustained winds of 105 mph. Fueled by warm Pacific waters, Jimena could be a major Category 3 hurricane by Sunday as it tracked north-northwest at 12 mph about 580 miles off the southern tip of Mexico’s Baja California peninsula late Saturday.

Obama: No turf wars, red tape in Katrina recovery

OAK BLUFFS, Mass. (AP)—Presi-

dent Barack Obama marked the fourth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina on Saturday by pledging to make sure that turf wars and red tape don’t slow the pace of the continuing recovery. He also said he would visit New Orleans by year’s end. In his weekly radio and Internet address, the president said he wanted to ensure “that the legacy of a terrible storm is a country that is safer and more prepared for the challenges

that may come.”

SC GOP vents anger over gov’s extramarital affair

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (AP)—Republican legislators fumed Saturday over Gov. Mark Sanford’s affair and questionable travel, though they stopped short of trying to force his resignation or impeachment before they return to the Statehouse in January.

Still, the House GOP Caucus made two things clear—they want Sanford gone and they want to act soon. However, lawmakers are waiting to make any decisions until the state ethics commission finishes its investigation. In all, 56 members were on hand and not one raised a word to defend Sanford, who shocked state residents by disappearing for five days in June to rendezvous with his Argentine lover.

Asia

Japan's ruling party enters elections as underdog

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese cast ballots Sunday in hotly contested parliamentary elections in which the ruling conservative party, battered by a lagging economy and voter desire for change after more than half a century of virtual one-party rule, was expected to suffer an overwhelming defeat.

The Liberal Democratic Party, which has governed Japan for all but 11 months since 1955, went into the elections with all major polls projecting it would lose control of the lower house of parliament.

That would likely mean the

fall of Prime Minister Taro Aso and his Cabinet and the creation of a new government headed by centrist Democratic Party of Japan chief Yukio Hatoyama—who would become the first prime minister not backed by the Liberal Democrats since 1994.

The vote is widely seen as a barometer of two related issues—voter frustrations over the ailing economy, which is in one of its worst slumps since World War II, and a loss of confidence in the Liberal Democrats' ability to tackle tough problems such as the rising national debt and rapidly aging population.

But even with severe challenges pressing the nation, many analysts said the elections might not be about the issues so much as voters' general desire for something new after nearly 54 years under the Liberal Democrats.

They also note that although the Democrats promise to change Japan's approach toward its economy and make Tokyo's diplomacy less U.S.-centric, their founders are defectors from the Liberal Democrats and are not likely to present too radical a departure from the country's current path.

Philippines sends alleged kidnapping leader to US

BY NEDRA PICKLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Fourteen years after a mass kidnapping of four Americans and other vacationers at a Philippine resort, an alleged Muslim militant accused of leading the hostage-taking has been brought to the United States to face criminal charges.

Madhatta Haipe, a Filipino former college professor, was extradited Thursday after be-

ing held in the Philippines for at least three months. He made an initial appearance Friday in federal court in Washington, and U.S. Magistrate Judge Alan Kay ordered Haipe held without bond pending trial.

Prosecutors say Haipe is a member of Abu Sayyaf, a violent group, linked to al-Qaida, that has been part of a decades-long Muslim rebellion in the southern Philippines.

Court documents say Haipe evaded capture until early this

year, although he was indicted in November 2000. David Kris, assistant U.S. attorney general for national security, said U.S. and Philippine authorities "never stopped pursuing this matter on behalf of the victims."

"With this extradition, we hope to finally bring justice for the U.S. and Philippine victims who were held hostage and repeatedly threatened with death during this crime," Kris said in a statement.

4 SKoreans return home after month held in North

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Four South Korean fishermen, whom Pyongyang detained for a month after they accidentally entered North Korean waters, returned home Saturday.

Their release is the latest indication that the communist country wants to improve ties with its southern neighbor and put stalled cross-border projects back on track.

Earlier this month, the North freed two American journalists and a South Korean worker after more than four months of detention. On Friday the two sides agreed to resume reunions of families divided by the Korean War more than half a century ago.

On Saturday, North Korean authorities handed over the fishermen and their boat to South Korea's Coast Guard officials at the Koreas' shared east-

ern maritime border.

Pyongyang held the four South Koreans for a month after their boat strayed into northern waters on July 30. Maritime officials say the fishermen encountered difficulties with their satellite navigation system.

"I am sorry to the public for causing concern, but I am deeply grateful for the support that secured our quick return," the boat's captain Park Kwang-sun told reporters in a brief comment after arriving at Sokcho, a port 130 miles (210 kilometers) east of Seoul.

Park and three other crew were immediately whisked away by officials to an undisclosed location for a debriefing, said Kim Tae-jong, a Coast Guard spokesman in Sokcho.

China and its goal of stability ahead of the sensitive Oct. 1 celebration of its 60th anniversary.

India loses communication with lunar satellite

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's national space agency said communications with the country's only satellite orbiting the moon snapped Saturday and that its scientists were no longer controlling the spacecraft. Radio contacts with Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft were abruptly lost at 0130 Saturday (2000 GMT Friday), the Indian Space Research Organization said. The spacecraft had completed 312 days in orbit and orbited the moon more than 3,400 times.

Pakistan destroys suicide bomber training camp

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Helicopter gunships destroyed a training camp for suicide bombers in Pakistan's northwestern Swat Valley, killing six Taliban fighters in an area the government had already declared clear of militants, an official said Saturday. The camp's trainees—including teenagers—were responsible for at least three attacks in recent weeks, an army spokesman said.

World

Bombs kill 18 in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—Bombs struck a cafe in Baghdad and remote communities in northern Iraq on Saturday, killing at least 18 people, as the visiting Iranian foreign minister warned that Iraq's instability affected the whole region.

The blasts came just over a week after suicide truck bombers devastated the foreign and finance ministries in Baghdad, killing about 100 people and dealing a blow to confidence in the Iraqi government's ability to protect the people as U.S. forces scale back their presence.

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki called on

neighboring countries to play a positive role in helping stabilize Iraq. His comments took on added significance amid a diplomatic dispute between Iraq and Syria over demands that Damascus extradite suspected Saddam Hussein loyalists blamed for the Baghdad ministry bombings.

"The lack of stability and security in Iraq will definitely affect the region," Mottaki said at a news conference with his Iraqi counterpart, Hoshiyar Zebari. "All of Iraq's neighbors should work seriously and help Iraq in providing security and stability."

The Iraqi government has

blamed an alliance of al-Qaida in Iraq and Saddam loyalists it says are based in Syria for the Aug. 19 bombings and demanded that Damascus hand over two suspected plotters, raising tensions between the two countries.

Iraqi forces have stepped up security in Baghdad and other cities since the truck bombings.

But attackers were still able to detonate an explosives-laden motorcycle near a cafe in an eastern section of the capital at about 8 p.m. on Saturday, killing at least two civilians and wounding 12, according to police and hospital officials.

Iraqi who threw shoes at Bush to be released early

BAGHDAD (AP)—An Iraqi journalist imprisoned for hurling his shoes at former President George W. Bush will be released next month after his sentence was reduced for good behavior, his lawyer said Saturday.

Muntadhar al-Zeidi's act of protest during Bush's last vis-

it to Iraq as president turned the 30-year-old reporter into a folk hero across the Arab world, as his case became a rallying point for critics who resented the 2003 U.S. invasion and occupation.

"Al-Zeidi's shoes were a suitable farewell for Bush's

deeds in Iraq," Sunni lawmaker Dhafir al-Ani said in welcoming the early release. "Al-Zeidi's act expressed the real will and feelings of the Iraqi people. His anger against Bush was the result of the suffering of his countrymen."

The journalist has been in custody since the Dec. 14 outbreak, which occurred as Bush was holding a news conference with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. Al-Maliki, who was standing next to Bush at the time, was said to have been deeply offended by the act.

Al-Zeidi was initially sentenced to three years in prison after pleading not guilty to assaulting a foreign leader. The court reduced it to one year because the journalist had no prior criminal history.

Defense attorney Karim al-Shujairi said al-Zeidi will now be released on Sept. 14, three months early.



In this Dec. 14, 2008 file photo, Iraqi journalist Muntadhar al-Zeidi throws a shoe at President George W. Bush during a new conference with Iraq Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki in Baghdad, Iraq.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Karzai widens lead in Afghan election race

KABUL (AP)—President Hamid Karzai widened his lead over his main challenger in election returns released Saturday, creeping toward the 50 percent mark that would enable him to avoid a runoff in the divisive presidential contest. Karzai's top challenger Abdullah Abdullah stepped up his fraud charges, raising doubts whether the former foreign minister's followers would accept the incumbent if he wins in the first round. Accusations of fraud in the Aug. 20 vote have poured into the Electoral Complaint Commission, which must investigate the allegations before final results can be announced.

Rebel clashes along China-Myanmar border subside

MENG PENG, China (AP)—Fighting appeared to have subsided Sunday along China's southern border after days of clashes between Myanmar government troops and ethnic rebels sent thousands of refugees streaming into China. At least one person was killed Saturday and dozens injured when a bomb was tossed into China, a report said. The clashes pose a major concern to Communist

WORLD BRIEFS

Defense lawyer for Mexican drug kingpin killed

TOLUCA, Mexico (AP)—A lawyer for a convicted Mexican drug kingpin was found stabbed to death in his home, authorities said Saturday. Americo Delgado was the second Mexican defense attorney for high-profile drug suspects killed in less than a month. Lawyer Silvia Raquel Villanueva was shot to death in the northern city of Monterrey on Aug. 9. Delgado, 80, was found dead at his home in the central city of Toluca on Friday, the Mexico state attorney general's office said in a statement. His throat had been slit and he had been stabbed multiple times, the statement said. Police had no suspects or information on a motive.

Families bury dead from military massacre in Peru

PUTIS, Peru (AP)—Victims of the worst military massacre during Peru's war with Maoist rebels were laid to rest Saturday, a quarter century after the slaughter in this remote Andean vil-

lage. The burials culminated a two-day funeral procession through the southeastern state of Ayacucho, the epicenter of Peru's bloody fight with Shining Path guerrillas from 1980 to 2000. Dozens of families in traditional dress and carrying flowers walked 30 miles (48 kilometers) with 92 white coffins, many containing only partial remains. The bodies were recovered from a mass grave last year. Peru's government-appointed truth commission said at least 123 people were killed in the 1984 massacre in Putis.

2 bombs explode in Gaza compound, outside mosque

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Two bombs went off near a mosque and inside Gaza's main security compound early Sunday in the latest violence to shake the troubled coastal territory, security officials said. No injuries were reported. The explosions appeared to be revenge attacks against Gaza's rulers, the Islamic militant group Hamas. Officials said they defused two more bombs hidden in the Ansar compound in Gaza City.

Health & Fitness

CDC says life expectancy in US up, deaths not

ATLANTA (AP)—U.S. life expectancy has risen to a new high, now standing at nearly 78 years, the government reported Wednesday. The increase is due mainly to falling death rates in almost all the leading causes of death. The average life expectancy for babies born in 2007 is nearly three months greater than for children born in 2006.

The new U.S. data is a preliminary report based on about 90 percent of the death certificates collected in 2007. It comes from the National Center for Health Statistics, part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Life expectancy is the period a child born in 2007 is expected to live, assuming mortality trends stay constant. U.S. life expectancy has grown nearly one and a half years in the past decade, and is now at an all-time-high.

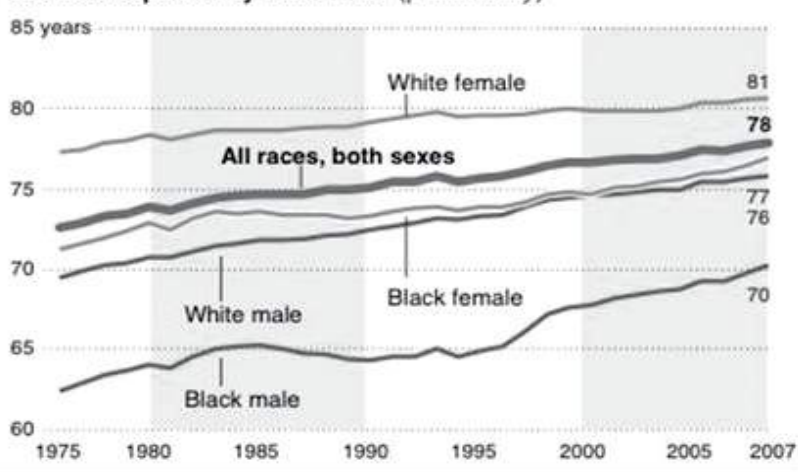
Last year, the CDC said U.S. life expectancy had inched above 78 years. But the CDC recently changed how it calculates life expectancy, which caused a small shrink in estimates to below 78.

The United States continues to lag behind about 30 other countries in es-

U.S. life expectancy up

Life expectancy at birth has risen to a new high, now standing at nearly 78 years. The increase is due mainly to falling rates in almost all the leading causes of death.

U.S. life expectancy 1975-2007 (preliminary)



SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Chart shows life expectancy change, 1975 to 2007.

timated life span. Japan has the longest life expectancy—83 years for children born in 2007, according to the World Health Organization.

The CDC report found that the number of deaths and the overall death rate dropped from 2006—to about 760 deaths per 100,000 people from about

776. The death rate has been falling for eight straight years, and is half of what it was 60 years ago.

Heart disease and cancer together are the cause of nearly half of U.S. fatalities. The death rate from heart disease dropped nearly 5 percent in 2007, and the cancer death rate fell nearly 2 percent, according to the report.

The HIV death rate dropped 10 percent, the biggest one-year decline in 10 years.

“It was kind of a surprise to see it go down so much” and it’s unclear if it will be a one-year fluke or not, said Bob Anderson, chief of the agency’s mortality statistics branch.

The diabetes death rate fell about 4 percent, allowing Alzheimer’s disease to surpass diabetes to become the sixth leading cause of death. Alzheimer’s has been climbing the death chart in recent years, though that may be partly because declines in other causes are enabling more

people to live long enough to die from Alzheimer’s, Anderson said.

The nation’s infant mortality rate rose slightly in 2007, to 6.77 infant deaths per 1,000 births, but the rise was not statistically significant. It has been at about the same level for several years.

That’s not a shock, some experts said. Medical care improvements can improve infant survival, but they also mean that some troubled pregnancies now make it to infancy before death, said Paul Terry, an assistant professor of epidemiology at Atlanta’s Emory University.

Another recent CDC report containing early data for 2008 counted 2.45 million deaths last year. That’s an increase of more than 29,000 deaths from the 2.42 million deaths in 2007.

CDC data sometimes changes as more records come in and researchers eliminate duplicate reports. But it’s likely an increase will hold up because of the growing number of elderly, experts said.

With new Nintendo title, even walking’s a game

By MIKE MUSGROVE
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

As it turns out, I take twice as many steps on the average day as my dog does but a couple thousand fewer than the president recommends.

This is my main takeaway after a few weeks of regularly carrying a pedometer around in my pocket, a device included with a recently released piece of software for the Nintendo DS called *Personal Trainer: Walking*.

About the size of a key fob, the game’s pedometer quietly counts off every step. A tiny light on one side blinks red until you’ve knocked out a default target count of 3,000 steps each day; hit that modest goal and the light turns to green. If you’re more active and want to set your daily goal higher, that’s easily done with the software.

Snicker if you will. But recall Nintendo’s last big foray into video-game fitness, a title called *Wii Fit* that came packaged with a balance board on which users can practice yoga and do push-ups. Hard-core gamers rolled their eyes, but *Wii Fit* became one of last year’s standout hits, outselling blockbusters such as *Grand Theft Auto IV* despite the Nintendo title’s hefty \$90 price tag. The company says it has sold 22 million units worldwide.

A gold rush is now on, as models and fitness personalities race to get into the *Wii* business. Jenny McCarthy, Jillian Michaels and Daisy Fuentes all have lines of new or upcoming *Wii* titles that incorporate the balance board into Pilates classes and cardio workouts. Gold’s Gym has a fitness game for the *Wii*, too.

Arming kids with pedometers to encourage them to move around could be the next craze. Next month, Nintendo is

releasing remakes of some of its old best-selling “Pokemon” games for the DS. The twist with these remakes, which will be released only in Japan for now, is that they’ll come with Pokemon-themed pedometers. To unlock some of the stuff in

of physical activity. Although the \$50 software comes with two pedometers, it can track the activities of four people (or pets) if you buy extras.

At the end of each day, you hold down a button on the pedometer and “beam” your activity log into the checkbook-size DS, which keeps a running calendar of your activity. On June 16, I logged 7,530 steps; on July 4, I walked 9,308.

On average, according to the device, I take about 8,000 steps a day. By clipping one to my dog’s collar, I learned that he typically makes about 4,000. The President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports recommends that healthy adults get about 10,000 but does not make any specific recommendations for a Belgian Malinois.

Mark Fenton, an author of books espousing the health benefits of walking, says he approves of the Nintendo game.

“I don’t tend to be a spokesguy,” he said. “Walking is a very simple activity, and it doesn’t need a lot of accoutrements to be good.”

But plenty of studies indicate that people who use pedometers walk more, and the pedometer that comes with the DS game is actually pretty good, Fenton says. That’s why *Personal Trainer: Walking* has his blessing.

“It uses the best of what we know about how to encourage physical activity,” he said.

My 8-year-old stepson was fascinated when he saw me beaming my daily step counts into the DS. When I gave him a pedometer of his own, however, he lost it after a day or two of summer camp.

“Walking is a game now?” one of the lad’s incredulous campmates asked as they waited for the morning bus to arrive one recent weekday. “Nintendo is genius.”



THE WASHINGTON POST

With the new Nintendo title, even walking’s a game.

STEP BY STEP

By MIKE MUSGROVE
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Average steps per day for reporter Mike Musgrove, according to Nintendo DS’s *Personal Trainer*: 8,000

Average steps per day for Musgrove’s dog, a Belgian Malinois, according to the device: 4,000

The number of steps per day for healthy adults, recommended by the President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports: 10,000.

the game, you have to earn it by walking around in, yes, the real world.

Personal Trainer: Walking is certainly kid-friendly, though it’s not specifically aimed at children. The title, which lets you use the “Mii” characters that represent you in *Wii* games, intends to introduce a bit of lighthearted competition into the area

Swine flu rises at US colleges as students return

ATLANTA (AP)—Georgia Tech freshman Elise Woodall was met with a message scrawled on the bathroom mirror of her dorm when she moved in two weeks ago: “Wash your hands. Swine is not fine.”

Colleges across the country are seeing spikes in the number of students with suspected cases of swine flu as dorms fill up and classes begin for the fall semester.

“Nobody wants to get sick because missing classes is a pain,” said Woodall, 18, a biomedical engineering major from Marietta, Ga.

While the increases were expected and colleges say they were ready for the coughing, sneezing and feverish students before move-in day, health experts say hundreds more could get sick as the virus winds its way through college campuses.

At Georgia Tech in Atlanta, classes are in full swing for the university’s 20,000 students, and so is the highly contagious H1N1 virus, commonly known as swine flu.

The university has had 150 suspected cases of the virus in the two weeks since students moved back to campus.

At the University of Kansas, nearly 200 students have reported having flu-like symptoms in the last week or so, spokesman Todd Cohen said. University of Tennessee administrators are estimating about 100 suspected swine flu cases on campus, spokesman Jay Mayfield said.

The University of Alabama had more than 50 cases of flu reported on the first day of classes last week. At Texas Christian University, 10 students were diagnosed with swine flu on the first day of class Monday.

“We’re finding out for the first time in a long time how quickly a contagious disease can move,” said Don Mills, vice chancellor for student affairs at Texas Christian.

To get ready for the expected outbreak, colleges stocked up on hand sanitizing gel and Tamiflu—an antiviral pill—while others have desig-

nated empty dorms where sick students can be isolated. Some campuses have developed “flu kits” with items like tissues, thermometers and box lunches for students in isolation.

Students have been getting regular e-mails from administrators reminding them to wash their hands frequently, stay away from sick friends and isolate themselves if they develop flu-like symptoms.

“We all knew this was going to happen,” said Liz Rachun, spokeswoman for the University of Georgia health clinic, which has seen nearly 50 suspected swine flu cases in the last two weeks. “We stocked up on masks and we have doctors in place.”

Health experts predicted swine flu cases would spike once the school year began and that colleges and elementary and secondary schools would see an increase in cases.

Most campuses won’t know for certain how many confirmed swine flu cases they have this year because many states are no longer routinely running tests on every suspected case. Still, many administrators say they’re treating every case as if it’s swine flu to help stem the spread of the disease.

Health officials say the concern is that swine flu is very contagious and spreads quickly once it is introduced to a population. That means hundreds more could get sick in the next few weeks.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta recommends students with flu symptoms—fever, cough, sneezing, chills, aches, sometimes diarrhea or vomiting—stay home from class.

“The mere fact you have lots of people in close proximity with each other results in the virus being transmitted from person to person,” said CDC spokesman Tom Skinner. “I don’t think we’re surprised by the fact influenza is returning to these campuses. What is concerning to us is people becoming complacent about this and not taking the steps we know can protect them.”

Life & Style

Hyatt's Giovanni's Restaurant celebrates 14 years

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the theme "Fly Me to the Moon," Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant marked its 14th birthday Friday, joined by more than 125 guests, regular patrons, and staff in a Sinatra-inspired celebration that lasted three hours.

With songs popularized by music icon Frank Sinatra playing in the background, the night's event was a convivial get-together of the islands' movers and shakers and those who have made the Giovanni's restaurants one of their regular hangouts.

The high point of the celebration was the lighting of the fireworks on a special cake baked just for the night's party and the distribution of gift items in a raffle drawing. The Giovanni's staff was also presented as one of the event's highlights.

Hyatt general manager Nick K. Nishikawa expressed satisfaction with the turnout and expressed the resort's determination to press ahead despite the tough economic times.

"We're very happy to see our guests celebrating with us tonight!" Nishikawa told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that, although 2009 was not a good year for the islands' hotel industry, Giovanni's has remained strong throughout the years.

With the hotel's executive chef, Gabriele Colombo, Nishikawa is confident that Giovanni's continued service to the Saipan community is assured.

Like Nishikawa, Giovanni's general manager, Arnel Metran, said they were delighted to see the restaurant's regular patrons in Friday's occasion.

"It's a good turnout...and we thank



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Hyatt general manager Nick K. Nishikawa leads other staff in lighting the cake celebrating the 14th birthday of Giovanni's Restaurant.

all our guests for coming tonight. We appreciate their support to Giovanni's in the past 14 years," he said.

The manager expressed optimism on the promise of better years for Giovanni's and the hotel industry in the CNMI.

Authentic

Nishikawa boasted that Giovanni's is the only place on Saipan that serves authentic Italian menus. He estimates that some 60-70 menu items are offered to clients on a daily basis, including appetizers and main dishes.

Every quarter, he said, Hyatt conducts a food analysis to identify which of the menu items are saleable and meet customers' satisfaction.

"It is where we base decisions if there's a need for certain menus to be omitted on the list...and which need to be changed," he said, citing this as among Giovanni's advantage over its competitors.

He likened their food menu to fashion, which needs to be updated on a regular basis.

Nishikawa said Hyatt has over 200 personnel, of which 15 are assigned to Giovanni's.

In recognition of the valuable work of its staff, Nishikawa said the hotel is keeping a regular work schedule at present.

Giovanni's is also home to several wine rallies and seminars every year and is the regular meeting place of the Saipan Rotary Club on Tuesdays.

Palms Resort unveils its 'new' Kaenju teppanyaki

'Minami now offers international cuisine'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Palms Resort Saipan unveiled Sunday its "new" Kaenju teppanyaki, the island's premiere teppanyaki restaurant on the beachside ground level of the resort hotel.

After years of primarily serving dinner to patrons, Palms Resort decided to open up the Kaenju Restaurant to the lunch crowd and the decision paid off during the opening of its maiden Sunday special lunch, with more than 40 guests filling the restaurant to full capacity.

Cristina P. Lustre, the hotel's food and beverage manager, was delighted at the overwhelming turnout, which she said could soon lead to making special lunch a regular feature.

From the original plan of opening the place only during the last Sunday of each month, Lustre said the success of yesterday's opening may lead to more enjoyable Sunday treats at the Kaenju Restaurant.

Kaenju, which is known for its fresh Maine lobster and Angus beef, faces the Saipan lagoon and affords a remarkable vista of the ocean.

For its initial offering, guests paid an affordable \$33 per adult and \$16.50 for kids, with the regular 20 percent discount for local customers. The choice menu offers a variety of vegetables, seafood, and steak choices that are cooked in front of guests and directly served on their plates. Kaenju also offers a variety of deserts and wines.

Lustre, who was seen overseeing Sunday's operation, said majority of yesterday's diners were from the local community, a positive reflection of the people's support for Palms Resort.

'Minami now offers international cuisine'

Palms Resort Saipan also offers an extraordinary Japanese buffet at its Mina-

mi Restaurant, which is also now serving international dishes and cuisine.

Executive sous chef Habib Akbar presented yesterday the restaurant's varied new choices, from sushi, sashimi, sukiyaki, and udon, to ramen tempura, steamed fish, curry, salad, grilled fish, fruits, pastries, and more.

The hotel resort's managed decided to expand the Japanese restaurant's offerings to include international dishes due to the ongoing renovation of the hotel's Fresco restaurant. Doing so ensures continuity of the service, Akbar said.

He disclosed that in three months time, Fresco will reopen and will specifically cater to international food lovers. Minami will then go back to serving Japanese cuisine exclusively.

The 150-seat restaurant has a floor-to-ceiling view of the waterpark, gardens, and grounds just outside the restaurant's windows and the overwhelming tropical beauty of the landscaped property.

Akbar said Minami also offers an affordable \$18 breakfast; lunch at \$22; and dinner, \$33 per person. A discount rate of 20 percent is always provided to local customers. Akbar said that Palms Resort's Minami is one of the few hotel restaurants that offer reasonable prices for its special food offerings.

Palms Resort's Minami has four chefs and two sous chef, who prepare Indian, Chinese, Italian, Japanese, and Mediterranean food all at the same time.

Akbar said that since Minami reopened in December last year, it has become a favorite spot for many people on the island.

"We will not stop providing our customers good food choices... that's our goal!" Akbar said, adding that the hotel's Steak and Seafood Night offerings are among Minami's added attractions.

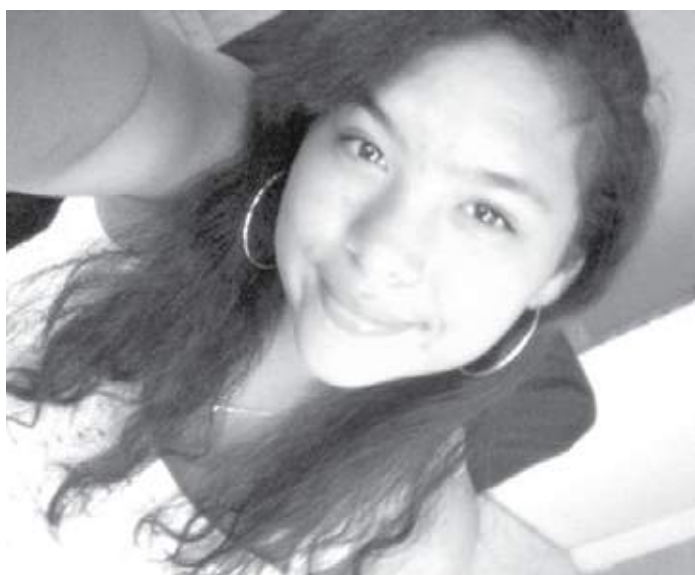
Minami, which can accommodate over a hundreds guests, is open everyday from 7am to 10pm.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 13th birthday to Donovan J. Flores, who is celebrating his 13th birthday today, Aug. 31, 2009! May you have many more blessed years to come! Love, your Dad and family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy, happy birthday to Chelsea Torres, who is celebrating her 13th birthday today, Aug. 31! Greetings come from your loving family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy 4th birthday to Evan B. Pua, who celebrated his special day yesterday, Aug. 30, 2009, at Micro Beach yesterday. We love you always! From Mom and Dad, sister Mia, Uncle/Aunt MayVan and the families.



"They say it's your birthday. Well, happy birthday to you!" Lani-Nicole Lizama Russell on your 15th year. May you have a very Beatle Monday. Love, Paul, John, George and Ringo and of course your parents and the entire family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Palms Resort Saipan unveiled Sunday its "new" Kaenju teppanyaki, the island's premiere teppanyaki restaurant on the beachside ground level of the resort hotel.

IN LOVING MEMORY

OCTAVIOUS MIKE TEIGITA PALACIOS

lovingly known as **"SKEPPY"**
 was called to his eternal rest at the age of 21
 May 06, 1988 – August 24, 2009

His memories will forever remain in the hearts of his:

PARENTS : Allen I. and Carmelita T. Palacios

SISTERS / BROTHER-IN-LAW : Sherry Lynn T. Ochoa / Kenneth Ochoa
 Bernice Catherine B. Cangco

GRANDMOTHER : Maria (Yaeko) I. Palacios

PATERNAL AUNTIES & UNCLES:

Rex I. Palacios & Mariana A. Coates (Brian, †Elizabeth, Christina, Gabriella, Patricia)
Mark I. & Bernie C. Palacios (Velma, Marvin, Franklin, Mark)
Arnold I. & Maria S. Palacios (Arnold Gerard, Nicole, Tiana, Eric)
Lars I. & Rose Palacios (Cedric, Francisco, Rose Marie)
Lambert I. & Rita S. Palacios (Dane, Halina)
Ramon I. & Ruby Palacios (John, Jason, Jacob, Riana)
Frank I. & Claudia P. Palacios (Tawny, Jerome, Blair, Sharon, Amy, Hannah)
Mary Ann P. & Fernando Soto
Thomasa I. Palacios & James Mendiola (Derek, Quina)
John Paul I. Palacios & Esther Manglona (Jared, Dustin, Ashley)
Eva I. Palacios (Justin, Brandon, Mariah)
Octavious I. Palacios
Alex I. Palacios

MATERNAL AUNTIES & UNCLES:

Pedro K. & Bernadita I. Teigita (Loraine, Michael, Jeffrey, Mariana, Peter)
Cayetana T. & Ereneo B. Dela Cruz (Eloy, †Ernie, Alva, Ivan, Anuncia)
Vicente T. & Remedio D. Cangco (Mariana, Joaquin, Jenam, Justin)
Michael T. & Anna I. Cangco (Jose, Sidbino, Sarina, Mickey, Samuel, Michael Jr.)
Pasqual T. & Evelyn D. Cangco (Swayne, Tremane, Leilani)
 †**Samuel T. Cangco** (Catalino, Joaquin, Corlyn, Courtney, Derek)
Hilaria C. & Jerry Woolley (Krystalynn Chanelle, Geria)
Isaac T. & Pamela K. Cangco (Ignacia, Isaac Jr., Charlie, Jojo)

In his new life, he now joins his:

GRANDPARENTS : †Dr. Francisco T. Palacios
 †Catalino T. Cangco & †Ignacia T. Cangco
 †Iyar Tanaka & †Seresang Ngiralmu

He will also be greatly missed by his other relatives and numerous friends.

Daily mass is being offered every 6:00pm followed by the holy rosary at 7:45pm
 at Santa Remedios Church, Tanapag.

On Tuesday, September 01, 2009, our beloved **Skeppy** will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:00am to the residence at Tanapag for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 11:00am at Santa Remedios Church followed by interment services at Tanapag Public Cemetery.

Please join us in prayer

ALLEN I. & CARMELITA T. PALACIOS
 and **FAMILY**



Did Mexico beat it? Fans go for 'Thriller' record

MEXICO CITY (AP)—They say they beat it.

Thousands of Mexicans claimed they broke the record for most people dancing to "Thriller" simultaneously in one place on Saturday, which would have been Michael Jackson's 51st birthday.

"We did it!" organizer Javier Hildago shouted to thousands of people wearing black fedoras, white gloves, aviator shades and ghoulish face paint, breathless after trying to recreate the groundbreaking 1983 video.

Did they? The Guinness Book of World Records will decide in a week.

The current record was set in May by

Michael Jackson's impersonator Hector Jackson performs with thousands of people at the Monument of the Revolution in Mexico City, during an attempt to break the Guinness World record of people dancing Michael Jackson's Thriller, Saturday, Aug. 29, 2009.

AP



Jamie Foxx brings music, laughs to New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Just two days shy of the fourth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, entertainer Jamie Foxx brought some music and laughter to New Orleans with his "Blame It" tour.

Foxx joked with the enthusiastic crowd of thousands at the New Orleans Arena on Thursday night. At one point he pulled women from the mostly female audience on stage to dance with him.

"I'm so happy to be here in New Orleans," Foxx told the crowd.

He performed songs from his latest album, "Intuition," and tributes to Ray Charles and Michael Jackson, singing some of their biggest hits.

At the end, Foxx said a portion of his concert proceeds would be donated to Make It Right, the organization launched by actor-activist Brad Pitt to rebuild homes in the city's devastated Lower 9th Ward.

"This is just a drop in the bucket with what you guys really need out here, but it's a start," Foxx said. "You are not forgotten ... Keep your hopes up. You guys are resilient."

Though the amount of the donation was not disclosed, the concert drew some 8,000 to 10,000 people, and ticket prices ranged from \$40-\$64, said New Orleans Arena spokes-

woman Laurel Hess.

Fans said they couldn't think of a better time than the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina for Foxx to make a trip to New Orleans.

"Everybody just wanted something to celebrate," Cassandra Larkin, whose New Orleans home flooded during Ka-

trina, said after the concert. "This really lifted our spirits."

In a recent phone interview, Foxx said a little fun and laughter is just what New Orleans needs as the storm's fourth anniversary approaches. Katrina struck Aug. 29, 2005, and flooded 80 percent of the city.



AP

Jamie Foxx shakes hands with Katrina victims while Tom Darden, right, executive director of the Make It Right Foundation, announces that proceeds from his performance during his "Blame It" tour, would be donated to the foundation created by Brad Pitt to rebuild green homes in the Lower Ninth Ward, Friday, August 28, 2009, in New Orleans.

17-year-old British youth sails around the world

By **RAPHAEL G. SATTER**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LONDON (AP)—Freeze-dried food. Autopilot failures. Brutal storms. Accidental dunkings.

A 17-year-old British sailor endured all those trials and more to become the youngest person to sail solo around the world.

Mike Perham grabbed the record Thursday after sailing 28,000 miles (45,000 kilometers) to cross the finish line off the coast of Cornwall, in southern England, after a mere nine months.

Perham is a few months younger than Zac Sunderland, from Thousand Oaks, California, who claimed the youngest solo crown in July when he completed a similar trip in 13 months.

Perham's boat, a 50-foot (15-meter) racing yacht called *Totallymoney.com* in honor of his sponsor, completed the trip at 9:55 a.m. (0855GMT) Thursday morning. He sailed with assistance—

which means he was alone but stopped for repairs.

The teenager was then joined by his father Peter, who told The Associated Press that they "were just enjoying each other's company" en route to the coastal city of Portsmouth, where a party was planned for their arrival Saturday.

Perham, who set off in Nov. 18, celebrated his 17th birthday deep in the Indian Ocean. His grueling trip was blighted by autopilot failures, rudder problems and wild weather that repeatedly forced him to stop for repairs.

During a stop in Cape Town, South Africa, Perham got a chance to meet up with Sunderland, as well as 75-year-old Japanese yachtsman and serial circumnavigator Minoru Saito, the oldest man to finish a solo, nonstop around-the-world voyage.

While waiting for parts to repair his rudder in Tasmania, Perham took

a brief trip to Brisbane, Australia, to meet Jessica Watson, the 16-year-old girl who also hopes to make it around the world.

After sailing above New Zealand and across the Pacific, Perham was towed through the Panama Canal and then cut across the Atlantic, heading for home.

Well-wishers tracked Perham's progress through his blog, where he chronicled his many mishaps—one entry is entitled "an unexpected swim"—and his impatience with what seemed to be an unending diet of freeze-dried food.

In an entry dated Thursday, Perham said the final leg of his trip "does feel a bit weird."

"I feel like I just want it to keep going, so I can have many more adventures," he wrote. On the other hand, he couldn't wait to see his father again.

"I'm very much looking forward to the reunion and his cheesy smile and

a group of 242 College of William & Mary students who performed the routine in Williamsburg, Virginia, according to Guinness.

Hildago claimed 12,937 people danced Saturday in front of Mexico City's Monument of the Revolution, led by a Michael Jackson impersonator wearing a red-and-gold sequined jacket.

But Guinness must certify whether all those people really performed the entire, intricate routine. The impersonator, who goes by the name Hector Jackson, and most of those in front of a huge crowd of onlookers certainly looked pretty good.

"More people responded than we even imagined!" Hector Jackson said. "Mexico gave the best tribute in the

world to Michael Jackson."

Some of those who took part were born more than two decades after "Thriller" was released.

Guillermo Rodriguez, 2, wore a wig of dreadlocks, a black fedora and a white glove as he practiced the moves minutes before the event, holding up a cell phone that blared a recording of the song into his ear.

His father, Guillermo Rodriguez Sr., is not a huge fan himself. But he said his son has become mesmerized by the Jackson videos that Mexican television have often played since the pop icon died June 25.

"Michael Jack!" the toddler screeched, pointing a chubby, ungloved finger at a Jackson T-shirt held up by a nearby hawker.

DJ AM autopsy inconclusive; more tests eyed

NEW YORK (AP)—Authorities will need to conduct toxicology tests, expected to take weeks, to determine what killed celebrity disc jockey DJ AM, a medical examiner's office spokeswoman said Saturday.

An autopsy Saturday of the 36-year-old was inconclusive, said the spokeswoman, Ellen Borakove.

A law enforcement official told The Associated Press that police found a crack pipe and prescription pills in the apartment where they discovered DJ AM's body Friday evening. The official spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the investigation was ongoing.

DJAM, whose real name was Adam Goldstein, had openly discussed past addictions to crack cocaine, Ecstasy and other drugs. In October, MTV was to debut his reality show, "Gone Too Far," in which he and concerned families staged interventions for drug abusers. MTV hasn't said whether Goldstein's show will air.

In an interview with the AP last month, he said the show provided a "terrifying" reminder of his own addiction.

"I have to constantly remind myself why I'm here and remember what it was like," he said.

Goldstein rose to fame several years ago as a deejay known for his mash-

ups—blends of at least two songs. He performed in clubs, on concert stages and at exclusive Hollywood parties. His personal life also garnered attention, as he dated actress-singer Mandy Moore and reality TV star Nicole Richie, the daughter of singer Lionel Richie.



DJ AM

Goldstein was critically hurt in a plane crash last September in Columbia, S.C., that killed four people. He was flying in a Learjet after a performance with Travis Barker, a drummer for the pop-punk band Blink-182 and Goldstein's partner in the duo TRVSDJ-AM.

Barker and Goldstein were burned. Goldstein had to get skin graft surgery but resumed performing about a month later.

He told the AP he felt blessed to have survived but was still shaken by the crash.

"I guess I get why they call it 'post-trauma,' because it was very tough. I have really bad days, and I have really OK days," he said.

His body was found after a friend called police to say he was unable to get into the home in New York City's trendy SoHo neighborhood. Paramedics had to break down the door before they found him, shirtless and wearing sweatpants, in his bed around 5:20 p.m. on Friday, the law enforcement official said.

There was no evidence of foul play.



Mike Perham arrives in Portsmouth, England, Saturday, Aug. 29, 2009. The world's youngest round-the-world sailor has returned to Britain after charting some 28,000 miles (45,000 kilometers).

all the rubbish jokes he brings along," Perham wrote.

Guinness World Records spokeswoman Amarilis Espinoza said, pending some verification, Perham would be certified as the "youngest sailor to circumnavigate the globe solo and unsupported."

Guinness had originally said Perham had been supported—accompanied by his father in a boat following behind him—but Espinoza said that was a mistake.

Perham may be young, but he's no stranger to spectacular sailing adventures. In January 2007, he became the youngest person to sail solo across the Atlantic at the age of 14.

On Friday in the Netherlands, 13-year-old Laura Dekker will find out at a court hearing if she is allowed to try to break Perham's record. Her parents are in favor of it, but a Dutch child protection agency is so concerned about the dangers of a solo voyage that it has asked for temporary custody of Laura so it can block her trip.

Plus-size model Crystal Renn fits in her own skin

NEW YORK (AP)—Crystal Renn was miserable as a super-thin model who had heart palpitations when she'd worry that there might be calories in Diet Coke.

Her moment of epiphany came when "I couldn't walk another step without being exhausted, or having hair clumps falling out." She knew she needed to live in the body she was supposed to have—specifically a curvy size 12.

In a new memoir "Hungry," Renn, now a plus-size model, exposes her struggles with weight, health and self-esteem, fueled by the industry she says she still loves.

That is, she loves it now that she has been accepted—even embraced—by the fashion world.

"I got to my lowest point, when I couldn't go lower, and it was either, 'I'm going to die and not accomplish the dream,' or, 'I can become a plus-size model and keep the dream,'" she said in an interview. "I am healthy now, the healthiest I've ever been in my life—both physically and mentally."

Writing "Hungry" with Marjorie Ingall for Simon & Schuster was an important part of the healing process, said Renn, 23.

She had told her story before, but always in a quick hit for some magazine celebrating the novelty of an hourglass shape on its pages. The book is her attempt to move the needle on how people—everyone from wide-eyed young girls to jaded fashion insiders—perceive beauty.

"I'd like to see everyone take on the attitude that there are women of all different shapes and sizes as 'the beauty ideal,' and that it's not one type or another. There are women who are naturally a size 2—you can't forget them, and that's discrimination the other way," Renn said. "All women bring something differ-

ent to the table and we have to appreciate them all."

Some in the fashion, modeling and magazine industries have been receptive to the idea, she said, noting that she's still working with her fuller figure in Vogue, Glamour, on the runway with Jean Paul Gaultier and in ads for Dolce & Gabbana.

It's often not the typical "pretty girl" who makes the biggest splash anyway, she said, explaining that when a modeling scout first laid eyes on her as a chubby cheerleader, he was the only person other than her mother who said she was beautiful.

Still, Renn is not ready to declare that runways will be filled with curvy types anytime soon.

"I believe there is a cycle to everything—Wall Street, the



This photo released by PMK shows model Crystal Renn in her early career.

housing market, and modeling, too. Back in the Victorian days, it was all about a full figure, in the '50s, it was about the boobs, in the '80s it was shoulders and in the '90s it was waifs," she said. "It can only go up from here."

In the more recent past, say 2008, Renn writes in her book that she started to see a greater variety of models on the designer catwalks, and we're not just talking some size 2s and 4s. There also were girls with dif-



This book cover released by Simon & Schuster shows the cover of "Hungry" A Young Model's Story of Appetite, Ambition and the Ultimate Embrace of Curves", by Crystal Renn.

ferent hair color, skin color and body types, she observed.

Fashion alone isn't to blame for the idea of carbon-copy beauty, nor is it to blame for all the girls out there with eating disorders, Renn said. But she added that fashion does help create the lens through which others, like the chubby cheerleader she was in Clinton, Miss., see themselves.

In hindsight, however, she cringes at her early modeling photos, as she focuses on the graying skin and lifeless eyes. Once she joined the "12+" group at Ford Models, Renn said she finally started seeing images of the young woman she knew she was meant to be.

(On the day she decided to switch gears of her career, she celebrated with a salad with salmon and nuts on it. It was, she wrote, a really big deal.)

Renn's favorite photo of herself was shot in 2004 by Steven Meisel for Vogue. It emphasized her mane of raven-colored hair and real cleavage.

"That shot—I knew this is my moment. I remember him saying, 'We've got it,' and I remember thinking, 'This is my time.' Everything I was work-

ing toward, taking a chance on becoming a plus-size model, following my dream, and now everything is happening in front of my eyes," Renn said.

The American edition of Vogue is unrivaled in its power in fashion publishing. Using plus-size models is not the norm, but it's not unheard of, and there is an annual issue that celebrates the idea of "shape."

The Meisel picture "is a quintessential Vogue portrait, taken by one of our most important photographers and styled by one of our important editors," said spokesman Patrick O'Connell. "And Crystal certainly is a beautiful model."

Renn has taken her mind off 24-7 dieting and is more involved in the lives of her friends and family, she said.

Flashes of fears about her thighs—the bane of her skinny-model time of her life—still cross her mind, but she has learned to get over them quickly: She'll find her "positives" to distract her.

"I love my cheekbones. I highlight them," she said. "I also love my eyebrows. I have good thick healthy hair—and that shows how far I've come."

50 Cent cancels New York City street fair

NEW YORK (AP)—Therapper 50 Cent has canceled a "Family Day" fair he had planned in his old Queens neighborhood amid police concerns about security for the event.

The fair had been planned for Sunday at a school yard in the borough's Jamaica section, blocks from a spot where the rapper was shot and wounded in 2000.

The musician's manager, Chris Lighty, says the event is being postponed while organizers work out new arrangements with police.

Authorities had been worried about whether they would have enough officers on hand to deal with crowds and keep the peace, especially if the rapper, whose real name is Curtis Jackson, performed.

New school year challenges student with a heavy load

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I will be going into the seventh grade soon. I'll be in all advanced classes, and I am also doing several sports. My problem is I'm very nervous.

I'm afraid of getting lost on my way to my classes, that I'll have a hard time meeting new people and that I'll be overwhelmed with work. One night I had a dream about all my fears coming true! Is there any way I can get past these feelings and enjoy my first few days at school?

NERVOUS IN CHEYENNE



Dear Abby

DEAR NERVOUS: Absolutely. Just remind yourself that every single student who will be entering seventh grade with you is probably experiencing similar feelings. If you get lost looking for a classroom, a teacher or someone else will be glad to help you find your way. It won't be difficult to meet new people because they'll be all around you, and everyone in your grade will be in the same boat.

P.S. You wouldn't have been assigned to advanced classes if you weren't up to the workload. So, trust me, and relax.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband is starting to seriously embarrass me. He has to relieve himself almost every time he walks outside. We have a truck sitting in our yard, and when we have company he walks behind it to do his business. He says it "saves water." What? A nickel's worth?

Our 14-year-old son is starting to do the same thing. He can be walking down the street and stop to pee by the side of the road. It's impossible to correct him when his dad does it, too.

How do I fix this? I have tried talking to them, but it doesn't work.

TEED OFF IN TENNESSEE

DEAR TEED OFF: Not knowing your husband, I can't determine whether he's "marking his turf" or has trouble controlling his bladder. If your husband's behavior started recently, inform his doctor. He should be checked from stem to stern because he could have a medical problem.

As to your son, he is imitating his dad. Depending on the laws in your community regarding exposing oneself and public urination, he could get himself in trouble. So please impress upon him that what he's doing is not only socially unacceptable but also could have a negative impact on his future, and you want it stopped immediately.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: After years of soul-searching I have finally realized that I'm an atheist. I am happy with that realization and at peace with myself.

One minor thing, though, has been baffling me. When expressing compassion, usually in letters or other written form, I see the phrase, "My thoughts and prayers are with you." I like the phrase, but cannot in good conscience state an outright lie when I know I won't pray.

Can you think of any non-religious alternative that I can use? I feel that using "My thoughts are with you" alone is missing something.

JILL IN MICHIGAN

DEAR JILL: I disagree. The phrase "My thoughts are with you" is direct and sincere. If you think you must add more, describe the emotions you are feeling, i.e., "I miss you," "I hope you're feeling better soon" or, "Please know you're always in my heart." In other words, tailor your words to the occasion and the person to whom they are directed.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Noel Gallagher explains why he quit Oasis

LONDON (AP)—Oasis guitarist Noel Gallagher claims "verbal and violent intimidation" led to his decision to leave the "Britpop" band.

In a letter to fans posted to the band's Web site Saturday, Gallagher also apologizes for having to cancel European concerts.

The posting says "the level of verbal and violent intimidation towards me, my family, friends and comrades has become intolerable." Gal-

lagher offers no details about what the intimidation was, and doesn't specify who was responsible.

Gallagher also doesn't directly write about his brother Liam, the band's frontman, who he earlier said had forced his decision to quit. That statement said Gallagher couldn't work with Liam "a day longer."

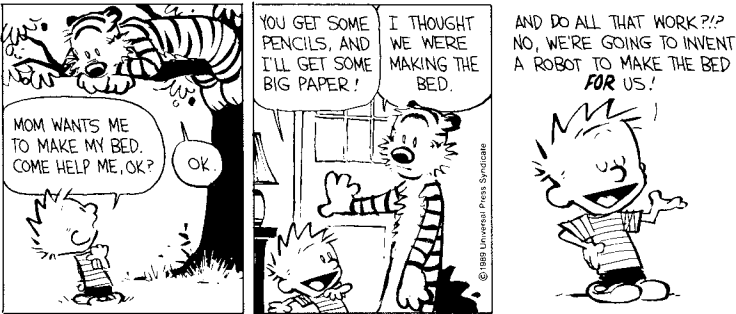
Oasis was a leading act in the "Britpop" explosion of the 1990s.



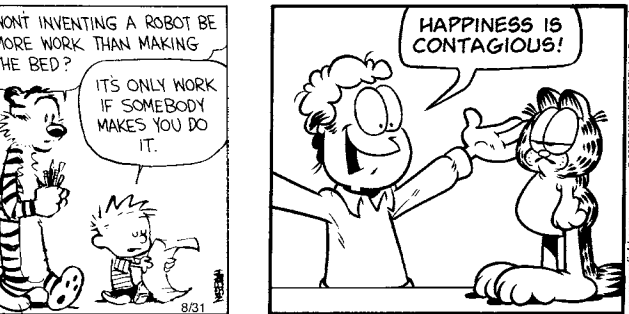
Gallagher

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



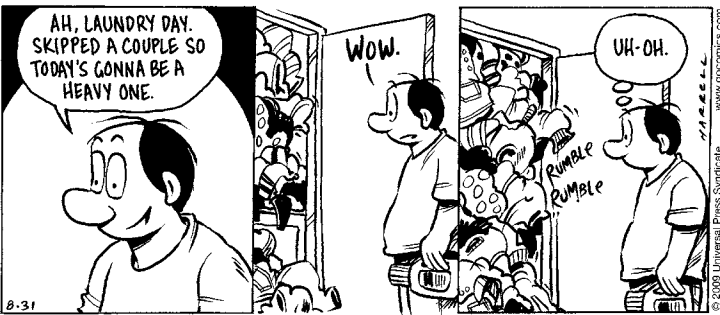
Garfield®



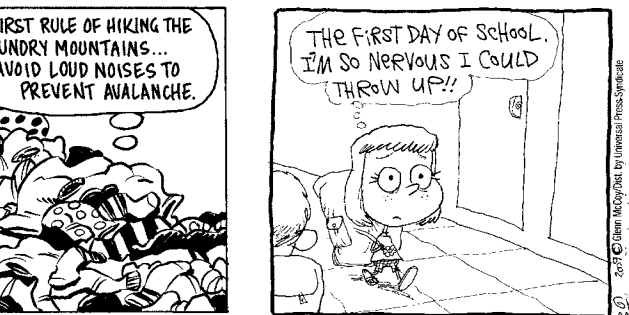
By Jim Davis



Adam@home



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Ali —

5 Spanish article

8 Sur-rounded by

12 Plentiful

14 Paddock papa

15 Morning-after woe

16 PC picture

17 Meadow

18 The same amount

20 Peptic problem

23 One-time Yugoslav leader

24 Twosome

25 Exceed a limit

28 Hot tub

29 Get more magazines

30 Rotation duration

32 Hollow quick bread

34 Stupor

35 Falsifier

36 GSN telecasts

37 Preserve to protect

40 Diving bird

41 Change

42 Sweater type

47 Birthright

48 Volcanic boom

49 Flight component

50 Poorly lit

51 Actress Paquin

3 Chignon

4 Fisher-man

5 Outflow from

6 Indivisible

7 Sieve

8 "I, Robot" author

9 Isinglass

10 Press

11 Say it isn't so

13 Active person

19 Pack cargo

20 Boom times

21 Arctic European

22 "Arrive-derci"

23 Piano man?

25 Made quite a few changes

26 Cheese choice

27 Demolish

29 Anger

31 "Of course"

33 Empha-size

34 John Lennon's last home

36 Swallow hard

37 Prior nights

38 Sail support

39 Highland hillside

40 Astrin-gent

43 Mentalist Geller

44 Sports-caster Scully

45 A billion years

46 Genetic sub-stance

Solution time: 24 mins.

Saturday's answer 8-31

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chad Brannon, 30; Jeff Hardy, 32; Chris Tucker, 37; Richard Gere, 60

Happy Birthday: Get ready to put all the ideas you've been mulling over the past couple of years to work for you. You'll require patience to make the right choices and get the best deals. There will be plenty of places to put your knowledge and experience to good use. Focus on making things happen, not just talking about it. Your numbers are 3, 8, 10, 22, 25, 37, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The faster you put whatever isn't working properly behind you, the sooner you can move on to more important and lucrative ventures. Now is the time to catch up and progress. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your confidence should lead you into a professional or personal opportunity. Rely on your own abilities and foresight. Don't bend to criticism when you feel comfortable with the plans you have. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Give more thought before committing to something you will have trouble finishing. Even if you find something easy to do, it doesn't mean you should give your time and talent away without charging. Fight for your rights. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You know how much you are capable of doing; to call it quits too soon will work against you. Set your sights on bigger goals and you end up in a position of power. An argument is likely to occur; don't back down. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You have to show whoever you are dealing with that you mean business. All that's required is a little action and fair play. Love and romance should be penciled in for the evening hours. A little celebration will reinforce your goals. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You have to go about your business and make the best of what you've got going. If you are quick to react, you can parley something you come across into a financial gain. A change will help you see how many choices and options you have. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Avoid negative people or anyone trying to get you to do things you don't want to do. Don't take risks, especially when doing something physical. Fair play will win in the end. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take your turn but don't do the same thing everyone else is doing. It's your uniqueness that will make people take notice. Travel will do you good and help you realize what you should be doing next. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Sometimes taking a back seat or letting others have a chance to go first pays off. Waiting to see how people react before you make a decision will spare you a costly mistake. Patience isn't one of your strong points but, for now, wait your turn. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your ability to make concessions to accommodate others will give you the upper hand.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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Knowing the people you are dealing with will help you make the right choices when negotiating. Getting angry or pushing your will on others will work against you. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do not confide in anyone for the time being. The less ammunition you give others, the better. Make your choices based on familiarity and good common sense. Trying to be someone or something you are not will lead to loss. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You need to be in control if you want to get your plans off the ground. Don't allow anyone else to take over. You can make headway by partnering with someone trying to accomplish the same results. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are persistent, competitive and demanding. You are well-spoken, flexible and strong and will do whatever is necessary to reach your goals.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

4 2 6 3 8 7 1

7 6 8 4

1 5 2 8

6

3 2 1 7

2 8 5 9

5 8 3 7 6 4 2

4

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

7 2 3 6 9 8 1 4 5

4 5 6 3 1 2 9 8 7

1 8 9 7 5 4 3 2 6

8 4 7 2 3 6 5 1 9

5 3 1 8 7 9 4 6 2

6 9 2 5 4 1 7 3 8

3 6 5 1 2 7 8 9 4

9 7 8 4 6 3 2 5 1

2 1 4 9 8 5 6 7 3

Difficulty Level ★ 8/31

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ARTURO FUENTE CIGARS Solution: 7 letters

R S T E P R E S I D E N T E D

U E W A G N C E T S A T R E I

E R I O B A I H Y C B E L S S

S C Y F R A T C I B D L I T L

S A R L I G C N A N O Z E I A

I U O O I D I A I R E R N N N

O S C R P M I B L V A E M T D

N A L I O S A M A E Y G N A T

N M A D U R O F U R R I U P M

O O S A R U D N O H N A F A U

C R S E R A D E C L E A R L I

U A I H L E D A R K E B E A M

B D C I G A R I L L O U S T E

A I O A R T S U B O R H E R

R O G A I T N A S T A L P

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Acres, Aged, Aroma, Barn, Binder, Blend, Burn, Carios, Cedar, Cigarillo, Classic, Clear, Connoisseur, Crops, Cuba, Dark, Dominican, Family, Florida, Fresh, Grade, Grow, Honduras, Humidifier, Island, Leaf, Line, Maduro, Nicaragua, Palate, Plants, Premium, Presidente, Rich, Robust, Rolled, Sales, Santiago, Size, Stint, Tabacalera, Tangy, Taste, Vintage, Ybor

Last Saturday's Answer: Authors

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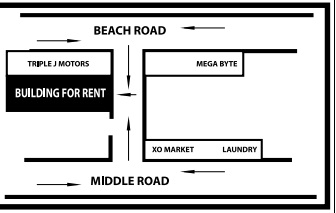
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Marino, Goydos share lead at shortened Barclays



JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP)—Paul Goydos figured Liberty National at least would look good on television, with the Statue of Liberty and so many other New York landmarks serving as a spectacular backdrop at The Barclays.

Inside the ropes is starting to look pretty good to him, too.

Goydos put together three straight birdies early in the third round Saturday to build a lead that stood up until Steve Marino ran off three straight late on the cloudy afternoon to catch him for the lead. Both shot 3-under 68 and were at 9-under 204.

As for those beauty shots?

"I haven't been watching," Goydos said. "Thankfully, I've been playing well and I've been on TV."

That might not make him the star attraction Sunday.

Goydos has only two victories in his 17 years on the PGA Tour. Marino made his debut as a PGA Tour rookie in 2007 at the last tournament Goydos won (Sony Open) and is still looking for his first victory.

The focus shifted behind them on a day of light rain that didn't last long. Suddenly lurking is Tiger Woods, who suggested the players used "ladies' tees" on Saturday even though he remained confounded by the putting surfaces. Woods was capable of making enough putts for a 67 that put him within five shots of the leaders.

Asked if he would be looking over his shoulder, the droll Goydos kept it all in perspective, as always.

"First of all, he's going to be in front of me, not behind me," he said. "So I'll be looking straight ahead."

The opening event of the PGA Tour Playoffs for the FedEx Cup has several possibilities:

Of the top six players on the leaderboard, only Steve Stricker, who is three shots behind, has won this year. Stricker won the inaugural playoff event two years ago at The Barclays. He kept bogeys off his card, yet only made birdies on the par 5s for his 68.

Marino had two chances to win this



Paul Goydos hits a shot on the 18th hole during the third round of The Barclays golf tournament Saturday, Aug. 29, 2009, in Jersey City, N.J.

AP

year, losing a playoff at the Colonial and sharing the 36-hole lead with Tom Watson at the British Open. He might find out how that experience will help him at Liberty National.

"I felt like I was ready to win back then, too," Marino said. "It just didn't turn out that way. I just feel like I'm playing real well right now, and I'm going to do the best I can. I think if I play well, I'll have a good chance to win the golf tournament."

Two shots out of the lead were Fredrik Jacobson (72), the Swede with moving parts in his swing, who is winless in his six years on the PGA Tour; and 24-year-old Webb Simpson, who overcame a triple bogey to shoot 72 and give himself a chance to become

the first rookie to win on tour this year.

And then there was Woods, surprised to see the tees moved so far forward that it was 355 yards shorter than the card.

"They are playing the ladies' tees most of the day," Woods said.

He was concerned because he didn't take advantage of the lack of length, particularly on the par-5 13th, with tees moved up 54 yards to make it play only 509 yards. Woods had to hit 3-wood to avoid going into a lake that he couldn't reach before. Trying to hit a soft 3-iron from a downhill lie, he caught it fat and went into the water.

Woods followed with a 5-iron to 7 feet for a remarkable save, and he holed a 12-foot par putt on the final hole that brightened his day.

Belichick: Brady not removed for injury



FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—If there's anything wrong with Tom Brady's throwing shoulder, New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick isn't saying.

Belichick said Saturday that Brady came out of Friday night's game after a crushing hit from Redskins defensive lineman Albert Haynesworth because it was time for the coaching staff to take a look at the backups. He lumped any problem with Brady's right shoulder into the category of normal "bumps and bruises" from a physical game.

"I'm saying that we made the decision to play other quarterbacks in the Washington game because we wanted them to play," Belichick said in a conference call with reporters.

"Tom had a desire to play, but we made a football decision to play other players because we needed to see them at that position and make an evaluation there. That's what I'm saying."

Brady completed 12 of 19 passes for 150 yards and two touchdowns, hitting Randy Moss six times for 90 yards and both TDs as the Patriots beat the Redskins 27-24 on Stephen Gostkowski's

last-minute field goal.

On Brady's last play, he was smashed to the turf by Haynesworth after throwing an incomplete third-down pass just before the first two-minute warning.

Brady was seen on the bench flexing and rotating his right arm, but when the other starters took the field for the first series of the third quarter, the two-time Super Bowl MVP was not among them. He then left the sideline and returned to the locker room.

The team announced that he had a sore right shoulder.

Brady did not speak to reporters after the game.

Belichick said Saturday that he didn't have anything to add.

Asked whether Brady had an X-ray, Belichick said, "I'm not really comfortable getting into a public diagnosis."

"We played a physical game against a really physical team," he said. "I'm sure after the game there were a lot of guys who had bumps and bruises. That's pretty normal after a game like that."

Asked if Brady would be listed as "probable" if the regular-season opener was next week, Belichick said, "we'll fill that report out when it comes. That's

happened before."

Belichick once listed Brady "probable" with a sore shoulder on injury reports for several years in a row, a practice that angered opponents and led the NFL to change its injury report procedures. The NFL's current media policy says: "Clubs must ensure that all medical information issued to the media is credible, responsible, and specific in terms that are meaningful to teams, media, and fans."

Asked whether "sore shoulder" was specific enough to describe the injury, NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said: "That is credible and specific information in compliance with our policy."

Brady missed most of last season after he was injured in the opener and had surgery to repair the ligaments in his left knee. His health could be the sole difference between whether the Patriots are Super Bowl contenders, like they were when he led them to a 16-0 record in 2007, or playoff also-rans, like they were without him last season.

"You just know it's part of the game, and Tom's been through it before," offensive lineman Matt Light said Friday, "and you know he can take it."

"If the guys get going coming in, they can kind of run away with it. "But the par on 18 at least kept me within reach—so far."

He's still there—barely.

Woods won Bay Hill with a five-shot rally Sunday, matching his PGA Tour best for comebacks. He won the Memorial from four shots behind. Working in his favor is that only three players ahead of him—Goydos, Stricker and Heath Slocum—have won on tour.

Woods, however, has company. After getting up-and-down from 190 yards for par on the 13th, and making a 12-foot par putt on his final hole, he was at 4-under 209 along with Padraig Harrington and Zach Johnson.

Liberty National, described throughout the week as long and hard, received a new identity in the third round.

The tees were moved forward so far that the course was only 7,064 yards. The two biggest changes presented the biggest problems for Woods as he tried to get closer to the leaders - the 13th and 18th holes, where he scrambled for pars.

And just his luck, the only players

who made a move on the back nine were the guys trying to catch Goydos.

Marino did just that. He ran off three straight birdies starting with the par-3 14th, hitting his tee shot to 2 feet of the front pin. Then came an approach to 10 feet on the 15th, and a wedge to 6 feet on the 16th.

He is not concerned with who's behind him—Woods' name was mentioned—and neither is Goydos.

The greater mystery is how the PGA Tour will set up the golf course. The tees have been moved around quite a bit this week, and with rain in the forecast, this was as short as it has played. That likely helped Goydos, among the shortest hitters.

"You have to be careful to take what this golf course gives you each day," Goydos said. "And the way they have kind of moved the tees around on different holes, we are going to have take that as it comes tomorrow. I don't know what to expect tomorrow. We may play the tips for all I know. That would change everything, play the tips. Wouldn't need irons."

Serena seeks 12th major title at US Open



NEW YORK (AP)—In one breath, Serena Williams says she considers herself the favorite at the U.S. Open.

In the next, she says she doesn't want to be touted as the woman to beat at the year's last Grand Slam tournament, which begins Monday.

At one point, Williams says she has no target number for major titles. At another point, she says she really was hoping to surpass Monica Seles' nine major singles championships—and now that Williams has 11, she wants to catch Billie Jean King's career count of 12.

"I used to never look at numbers. But the more I get, the more numbers I look at," Williams said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I want to get back to where I don't look at numbers."

Perhaps Williams is simply saying the first thing that comes to mind. Perhaps she's really not sure how she feels. Or perhaps she's working on her acting chops during interviews and news conferences.

This much is clear: There have been two very different tennis players who have shown up under the name "Serena Williams" the past 12 months.

Check out these statistics dating to the start of the 2008 U.S. Open:

■ Grand Slam Tournament Serena Williams is 25-1, for a .962 winning percentage, with three titles at the past four major championships, including a year ago at Flushing Meadows; she is 9-1 against top-10 players at majors in that span.

■ Lesser Tournament Serena Williams is 21-11 (plus one walkover), for a .656 winning percentage, with zero titles at her past 12 nonmajor events; she is 3-5 against top-10 players at nonmajors in that span.

The contrast in numbers is far less pronounced for older sister Venus, but she, too, tends to play her best on the sport's biggest stages. Venus ranks second to Serena among active women with seven major titles.

"The Williams sisters just take it to another level when they are playing the

Slams," observed Martina Navratilova, who won 18 Grand Slam singles titles.

"The Williams sisters look at it as an opportunity," added Navratilova, part of Tennis Channel's announcing team at the U.S. Open. "They don't put that much pressure on themselves when they play the other tournaments. It's sort of like warmups."

Compare that to someone such as Dinara Safina, who is No. 1 in the WTA rankings and seeded No. 1 at the U.S. Open, ahead of No. 2 Serena Williams and No. 3 Venus Williams. Safina is 0-3 in Grand Slam finals over her career; she has, however, won three other titles in 2009.

Ask the younger Williams about the key to defending her championship at Flushing Meadows and she insists that she can't allow any shred of pressure to creep into her thoughts.

"I have to be really relaxed. Last year, I was super relaxed, and super calm. I just enjoyed every moment," she said. "That's where I need to be again."

Williams certainly knows what it takes to succeed at major tournaments, but there have been dips in performance at those events, too. For a while, she drew criticism for spending too much time pursuing outside interests and not enough time honing her game.

On the other hand, Williams' forays into fashion and acting helped turn her into something of a brand. She is not merely a sports star; she is a celebrity.

That's why she was invited to unveil a wax figure of herself Thursday at Madame Tussauds New York. That's why she was asked to make a guest appearance on Shaquille O'Neal's reality TV show. That's why she has an autobiography coming out next week. That's why she has nearly 1 million followers on Twitter.

That said, Williams is at her best—and is as good as it gets—when she has a racket in her hand, particularly at Grand Slam tournaments these days.

"I'm happy where I'm at, and I feel like I have several hundred more years to play," said Williams, who turns 28 in September. "Hopefully I'll win more."

Yankees rout slumping White Sox



NEW YORK (AP)—Sergio Mitre shook off eight-day-old

lay off and combined with Chad Gaudin on a one-hitter as the New York Yankees routed the slumping Chicago White Sox 10-0 in the American League on Saturday.

Mitre (3-1) was perfect until Jim Thome ripped a bad-hop double past Gold Glove first baseman Mark Teixeira with one out in the fifth for Chicago's only hit. Mitre left with a bruised right forearm after being nailed by A.J. Pierzynski's liner in the seventh.

Alex Rodriguez hit his 576th homer, and Derek Jeter and Robinson Cano each got three of New York's 14 hits.

The White Sox lost for the sixth time in seven games. Jose Contreras (5-13) fell behind 8-0 in the fourth and leads the AL in losses.



New York Yankees pitcher Sergio Mitre throws in the first inning against the Chicago White Sox in a baseball game at Yankee Stadium in New York, on Saturday, Aug. 29, 2009.

Rays 3, Tigers 1

At Detroit, David Price (7-6) lasted a career-best 7 1-3 innings and allowed a run and five hits to help Tampa Bay beat Detroit.

Nate Robertson (1-1) took the loss as he was making his first start of the season since elbow surgery.

Tampa Bay scored twice in the third on Ben Zobrist's RBI ground-out and Carlos Pena's two-out run-scoring single.

Magglio Ordonez's two-out RBI single in the eighth off Dan Wheeler produced Detroit's run.

Rangers 3, Twins 0

At Minneapolis, Scott Feldman held Minnesota scoreless into the sixth inning and helped Texas keep pace in the wild-card chase.

First-inning RBIs by Josh Hamilton and Ian Kinsler put the Rangers in front right away against Carl Pavano (11-10). For insurance, Ivan Rodriguez went deep in the top of the ninth — his first homer since rejoining the Rangers 11 days ago.

Feldman (14-4) walked four and gave up four hits in 5 2-3 innings, and the bullpen backed him up.

Texas, in range of its first trip to the playoffs in 10 years, is 2 1/2 games behind Boston in the wild-card race.

Red Sox 3, Blue Jays 2

At Boston, Clay Buchholz allowed just three singles in 8 1-3 innings, and Alex Gonzalez and Dustin Pedroia's RBI singles made up for a Boston offense that sputtered in the early innings.

The Red Sox won for fifth time in six games.

Buchholz (3-3) gave up one run, struck out nine and walked two.

Ricky Romero (11-6) gave up three runs on seven hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Athletics 4, Angels 3

At Anaheim, California, Rajai Davis tied the score with a two-run single in the seventh inning off Rafael Rodriguez (0-1) and pinch-runner Eric Patterson scored the go-ahead run on an infield out in the eighth as Oakland edged the Angels.

Maicer Izturis hit a two-run homer for the Angels, whose seventh loss in 10 games reduced their AL West lead over Texas to four after the Rangers' 3-0 win at Minnesota.

Brad Ziegler (2-4) pitched a perfect seventh inning.

Michael Wuertz worked a perfect eighth and rookie Andrew Bailey got three outs for his 20th save in 24 attempts.

Indians 5, Orioles 3

At Baltimore, Andy Marte hit a three-run homer following a long rain delay and Jhonny Peralta also connected in Cleveland's win over Baltimore.

Marte's shot off Chris Ray erased a 2-1 deficit in the sixth inning. Peralta's homer, off rookie Chris Tillman in the fourth, tied the game at 1.

With the Orioles batting against Jeremy Sowers in the fifth, a light rain intensified. Ty Wigginton reached third with two outs and, as thousands of fans headed for cover, Cesar Izturis tripled into the gap in right-center.

When play resumed, Ray (0-2) replaced Tillman and immediately struck out Peralta. But Luis Valbuena and rookie Matt LaPorta followed with singles, and Marte hit a 3-2 pitch deep into the left-field seats.

Mariners 8, Royals 4

At Seattle, Mike Sweeney hit a two-run double to spark a four-run first inning and help Seattle beat his former team Kansas City.

Jack Hannahan and Jack Wilson later had back-to-back two-out RBI doubles in the inning.

Hannahan also hit a home run. Rob Johnson contributed a two-run homer and Jose Lopez had a solo shot in the eighth, his 20th.

Ian Snell (3-1) worked five innings for the win. He stayed in the game long enough to earn the victory after he was hit on the right forearm by Mitch Maier's line drive in the fifth. After taking the shot, he ran over to cover first then slumped to the ground in pain.

Dodgers 11, Red 4

At Cincinnati, Manny Ramirez hit the first of Los Angeles' four homers, and the Dodgers blew a four-run lead before powering to an 11-4 victory that ended the Cincinnati Reds' five-game winning streak in the National League on Saturday.

Ramirez connected on a two-run shot in the first inning off left-hander Matt Maloney (0-3). Rafael Furcal hit a tiebreaking solo shot in the fifth, and Matt Kemp and Orlando Hudson homered as the Dodgers pulled away.

Jeff Weaver (6-4) bailed out starter Charlie Haeger, who had a bad day with his knuckleball. Haeger squandered a 4-0 lead in less than three innings.

The NL West leaders improved to 21-4 against Cincinnati since 2006, their best mark against any NL team.

Giants 5, Rockies 3

At San Francisco, Barry Zito carried a shutout into the ninth inning and Pablo Sandoval homered as San Francisco moved within a game of Colorado for the NL wild-card lead.

Brad Hawpe homered and pinch-hitter Seth Smith drove in two runs for the Rockies, who lost their fourth straight—tying their longest slide this season.

Zito (9-11) allowed one run and eight hits over 8 1-3 innings. He walked one and struck out seven.

Jason Marquis (14-9) gave up five runs and nine hits over six innings.

Braves 9, Phillies 1, 8 innings

At Philadelphia, Garret Anderson hit a three-run homer and three other Braves went deep in a rain-shortened win over Philadelphia.

The game was called with the Phillies due up in the eighth inning after a 43-minute delay caused by torrential rain. The game started 24 minutes late due to a rain delay.

Cliff Lee (5-1) was making his sixth start with the NL East leaders since being traded from Cleveland on July 29. He went 5-0 with a 0.68 ERA in his first five.

Matt Diaz and Yunel Escobar also homered off Lee, who yielded six runs and 10 hits in five innings. Prior to the Braves' power surge, Lee hadn't allowed a homer in 43 innings with Philadelphia.

Chipper Jones added a two-run shot in the sixth. He had been in a 3 for 42 skid.

Derek Lowe (13-9) improved to 6-1 in his career against the Phillies and 4-0 at Citizens Bank Park.

Cubs 11, Mets 4

At Chicago, Jake Fox hit his first career grand slam as Chicago beat up New York.

Fox finished with a career-high five RBIs. His bases-loaded homer finished Mets starter Bobby Parnell (3-7) during a six-run fifth inning for a 9-4 lead. Milton

Bradley got hits in his first three at-bats and finished 3 for 4 with a walk.

Ryan Dempster (8-7) allowed eight hits and four runs over six innings to get the victory.

Bobby Parnell (3-7) took the loss.

Diamondbacks 9, Astros 0

At Phoenix, Mark Reynolds hit his 40th homer and Jon Garland threw seven sharp innings as Arizona routed Houston.

With his two-run shot in the third inning, Reynolds became the second Diamondbacks player in the franchise's 12-year history to homer 40 times in a season. The first was Luis Gonzalez, honored in a pregame ceremony after announcing his retirement following 19 big league seasons.

Garland (8-11) was masterful, giving up only five hits and a walk. He struck out five and did not let a runner reach third.

Justin Upton had three hits, including his 21st homer, and Miguel Montero had a three-run double for the Diamondbacks, who have scored 34 runs in their last three games.

Cardinals 9, Nationals 4

At St. Louis, Matt Holliday and Colby Rasmus each hit a three-run homer to power the surging St. Louis past Washington.

Holliday is hitting .376 with eight home runs and 32 RBIs since joining the Cardinals on July 24. The NL Central leaders are 24-9 during that stretch, including a 17-4 mark over their last 21 games.

Albert Pujols doubled twice and scored two runs. Skip Schumaker added three hits, including two doubles.

Cardinals starter Mitchell Boggs

(2-2) went six innings, allowing eight hits and three runs.

Adam Dunn hit his 35th homer and Ryan Zimmerman drove in two runs for the Nationals. Craig Stammen (4-7) lasted 4 2-3 innings.

Brewers 7, Pirates 3

At Milwaukee, pinch-hitter Jody Gerut doubled to drive in the go-ahead run as Milwaukee took advantage of Kevin Hart's wildness for its 20th straight win over Pittsburgh at Miller Park.

Andy LaRoche homered for the Pirates, but they couldn't end the longest winning streak by one team over another at home since the Indians beat the Orioles franchise 27 consecutive times at Cleveland Municipal Stadium from 1952-54.

In this one, Hart (4-4) was wild at costly moments and his defense let him down to keep Pittsburgh winless in Milwaukee since May 3, 2007. The Pirates get a final chance Sunday to snap the skid before next season.

Padres 7, Marlins 4

At Miami, Tony Gwynn Jr.'s two-run triple broke an eighth-inning tie and Oscar Salazar had three hits as San Diego beat reeling Florida.

Will Venable hit his ninth home run and scored twice for the Padres, who improved to 9-59 when trailing after six innings.

Ronny Paulino hit his eighth homer and drove in three runs for Florida, which has dropped seven of 10. Wes Helms had two hits for the Marlins—who have given up 26 runs and 44 hits in their last three games, all losses.

Adam Russell (1-0) worked a scoreless seventh for the win. Heath Bell earned his 31st save in 34 chances.

Tearful Luis Gonzalez retires from baseball

PHOENIX (AP)—A tearful Luis Gonzalez announced his retirement as a player Saturday and joined the Arizona Diamondbacks as a special assistant in the front office.

"Obviously, when you're a professional athlete, it's tough to close a book on something that you love to do," Gonzalez, who turns 42 on Thursday, said at a news conference before the Diamondbacks played Houston. "But at the same time, it's a new beginning for myself, for my family."

In his new role, Gonzalez will assist Diamondbacks president and CEO Derrick Hall and other departments throughout the organization.

"Whatever they ask me to do, I'm open and willing to do that," Gonzalez said. "I have a strong passion for this game."

The most popular player in the franchise's 12-year history, "Gonz" will always be remembered for hitting the winning bloop single off New York Yankees closer Mariano Rivera in Game 7 of the 2001 World Series—still Arizona's only major sports championship.

"My biggest thrill in my career was winning a world championship," Gonzalez said. "I had one shot at it in my 18 years, and we ended up winning a championship here in Arizona."

Gonzalez spent his best eight years with Arizona, arriving in 1999, the franchise's second season. But he had

a bitter parting with the Diamondbacks, who informed him late in 2006 that they would not pick up his \$10 million contract option for 2007.

Gonzalez's final game as a Diamondback, on Oct. 1, 2006, drew 48,972—at the time the largest regular-season crowd in team history.

The hard feelings apparently are gone. Gonzalez, who lives in the Phoenix area, said he still roots hard for the Diamondbacks.

"My wife could tell you, it kills me every time the D-backs lose," Gonzalez said of a team that entered Saturday two games above .500 since he left.

Gonzalez was given a rousing welcome before the Diamondbacks played the Astros on Saturday night. The Chase Field crowd stood and applauded as Gonzalez received the key to the ballpark from Hall and managing general partner Ken Kendrick.

A five-time All-Star, Gonzalez batted .283 with 354 homers and 1,439 RBIs in 19 seasons with Houston, the Chicago Cubs, Detroit, Arizona, the Los Angeles Dodgers and Florida. He last played in 2008, with the Marlins.

Gonzalez led the NL with 206 hits in 1999.

Known for hitting liners, Gonzalez had an unexpected power surge in 2001, hitting 57 homers, 26 more than his previous high. He hit 28 homers the following season, and his totals declined in five of his final seven seasons.

Sparks sparkle in Rotary debut

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Living up to their moniker, the Kagman Sparks caught fire in the closing minutes of their game against Rollers 2 to pull off a 38-36 win in the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League on Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Edwin Camacho waxed hot for the Sparks, drilling six of the team's last 10 points in the last two minutes of the game. His back-to-back baskets, which were the Sparks' last two, were enough to foil Rollers 2's repeated

Edwin Camacho, seen here diving for the ball for Kagman Ayuyus in last year's MISO caging, drilled crucial baskets in Kagman Sparks' 38-36 win over Rollers 2 in the Rotary league on Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



GABRIEL

From Page 28

men's B singles after whipping Aries Cordero, 21-10, 21-11, while Ezekiel Macario had to play three sets against Rod-wealth Espana before nailing a 21-17, 14-21, 21-16 win in the men's C division.

In the men's A division, Daniel Macario also needed three sets to thwart Andreau Galvez, 14-21, 21-15, 21-15, while San Pablo swept Roger Vales in the men's B game, 21-10, 21-13.

In the mixed doubles, four pairs won their debuts.

Ferdie Arago and Janis Parcon prevailed over Daniel Macario and Shirley Kim in the mixed B division, 21-11, 21-12 and against Noli Santos and Ana Rose Omori, 21-19, 21-19; Puy Macario and Annette Quiambao topped Luis Camacho and Armalaine C, 21-14, 21-13; and Macoi Aguda and Merlie Tolentino slipped past Gary Bandoja and Malasarte, 17-21, 21-10, 21-19.

Action in the IT&E badminton tournament continued on Saturday with five matches played in the singles division and six in the doubles competition.

After winning his opening games, Gabriel dropped his next two, as Bandoja beat him in straight sets, 21-13, 21-18. Galvez then handed Gabriel his second loss, as the latter posted a 21-13, 21-16 victory.

Espana recovered from his opening day loss after downing Cris Hilario, 21-13, 22-20, while Macoi Aguda won his debut over Daniel Macario, 23-21, 21-14. Santos also prevailed in his first singles game, escaping past Digno, 11-21, 21-10, 21-18.

Arago and Parcon claimed their third and fourth win on Saturday after tripping Paul

Navarro and Villafior, 21-9, 21-12, and Cordero and Ching, 21-14, 21-14.

Joey Algenio and Riza Y. won their first game in the mixed C division after beating Rob Harrell and Malou Mendoza, 21-8, 21-12, while Malasarte and Vales also made it into the win column in the mixed B division after whipping Jojo Savellano and Jaja S., 21-13, 21-19.

In other results, Ezekiel Macario and Merlie Tolentino topped Camacho and Armalaine in the mixed C, 21-11, 21-12, while Reyes and Omori defeated Lito Mendoza and Shirley Kim, 19-21, 21-17, 21-14.

ABUEL

From Page 28

led MDX's come-from-behind win in the series opener with his triples and crucial steals. In Game 2, he still top-scored for MDX despite being hounded by SIP defenders, drilling 17 markers in Chow Queen's 84-81 victory.

The MDX gunner averaged 18.3 points in six matches in the regular season and earned a total of 110 points. He had a decent percentage from the 15-foot line with his 80 percent clip and made 12 triples in the regular season. Tamayo added 17 rebounds, 17 assists, and 12 steals.

Abuel got his second tro-

phy when he was named to the Mythical Five Team, along with SIP's Elmer Esdreton, Vis-Minda's Jawn Joyner, NMBA's Gil Gapor, and Bayani's Ronald Delos Reyes.

Esdreton averaged 16.33 points, 6.4 rebounds, 5.1 assists, and 3.8 steals in the regular season, while Joyner had a double double with his 15.2 points and 10 rebounds. Delos Reyes had the biggest scoring average among the members of the Mythical Five with his 20.4 points per game. He also averaged in double figures in rebounds with 11.1 boards per game. Gapor recorded an average of 14.7 points per game and 7.2 rebounds.

Other statistical leaders were

also feted during the awards ceremony attended by Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig and IT&E marketing manager Kathryn Barry.

Four members of the Mythical Five led in the statistical race with Esdreton winning the best in steals award, Joyner ruling the blocks department (3 per game), Delos Reyes topping the rebounds category, and Abuel leading in the assists department.

Cabalen's Jessie Mina also received a trophy, as he was named scoring champion in the league after posting an average of 28.8 points per game. The best in free throws trophy went to SIP's Leo Factor, while Samahang Manggagawang Fil-

ipino-Quichocho Law Office's Sonny Lerio took the best in three-point shot with his average of 4.8 triples per game.

In team awards, MDX, SIP, and NMBA were awarded with the championship, runner-up, and third place trophies in the open division. In the masters, NMBA-Ebisuya took the championship plum, while Cabalen-NMI Contractor and Boholanos-University of Loyola/Raffy's Diner claimed the runner-up and third place trophies, respectively.

The Sportsmanship Awards went to Cabalen (open) and MIFICPA (masters).

Teams and their sponsors were also given certificates of recognition.

MASTERS

From Page 28

Rebuyon were teasing each other down low and the former was even jokingly nudging the latter to give him room for a shot.

Mina then received Pineda's inbound pass at the right key and the former pulled up for a triple, drawing contact from an equally burly Rebuyon.

A jubilant Mina stepped up to the foul line and in between laughs drilled the three free throws to put the Masters Selection in front, 103-101.

NMBA still had five seconds left to execute a play, but faltered when William

Opone committed a traveling violation. Melvin Villarin inbounded the ball and passed it to Opone. While trying to run from the right sideline, the ball stuck in between Opone's right hand and hip. Had he was not called for the traveling violation, the ball would still return to the Masters Selection, as it hit him first before going out to the right sideline.

NMBA fouled Ronald Delos Reyes in the ensuing play and the Bayani center split his charities to peg the final score. Only two seconds left on the clock and NMBA failed to pull up for a decent shot with Ferdie Tobias, heave from the backcourt hitting nothing but air.

Earlier, Mina's baseline jumper gave the Master's Selection a 100-98 lead, with less than a minute left in the game. Teams traded misses until Rebuyon was fouled and split his charities to cut the lead to one.

After Rebuyon missed his second free throw, Danny Bicera collared the rebound and passed it to James Abuy. Abuy fumbled near midcourt and eventually lost the ball, allowing an NMBA fastbreak play. Opone took the possession and found Rebuyon in the paint for the basket that gave the masters champion the lead.

However, breaks went to the Masters Selection side in the last

10 seconds to steal the win.

Abuy top-scored for the Masters Selection with 25 points, while Ferdie De La Torre added 22. Bicera and Mina chipped in 17 apiece.

Opone led all scorers with his 28 points, while Rebuyon contributed 20.

Masters Selection 104 – Abuy 25, Dela Torre 22, Mina 17, Bicera 17, Delos Reyes 8, Pineda 6, Canedo 6, Ebuena 3.

NMBA-Ebisuya 101 – Opone 28, Rebuyon 20, Villarin 14, Tobias 10, Santos 7, Buenabaja 6, Abedes 5, Olivos 4, Macoto 4, Jacob 4.

Scoring by quarters: 22-21, 40-48, 75-75, 104-101.

comeback bids.

Kagman led by as much as 14 in the first half, 25-11, but came out flat in the first few minutes of the second half, allowing Rollers 2 to recover behind Jester Kaipat and Ryan Lisua's baskets.

Rollers 2 outscored the Sparks in the second half, 20-18, but failed to steal the win, as Camacho and Frank Mettao canned timely baskets. Mettao had four of the Sparks' last 10 points.

Camacho finished with a game-high 11 points, while Mettao chipped in six.

The Sparks-Rollers 2 tiff was the last game for Week 2 of the Rotary caging. Six games were played in the first week, as two matches were featured on Thursday. Joining the Sparks in the win column for Week 1 were the Sixers, G-Stars, Rollers 1, Sonics, and the Runnin' Rebels.

In the loser's bracket, Rollers 2 is in the company of 670 Roll-

ers, Celtics, Ol'Aces, Chalan Kanoa Saints, and Hi-5.

Action in the 18-and-under league will continue today with Rollers 2 taking on Hi-Five.

On Tuesday, the Sparks will collide against Rollers, Rollers 1 will face Sonics on Wednesday, Runnin' Rebels and Ol'Aces will meet Celtics and G-Stars, respectively, on Thursday, and the Saints will duel the Sixers on Friday.

The 12 competing teams will play in a round-robin regular season. Playoff format has yet to be decided.

Kagman Sparks 38 – Camacho 11, Mettao 6, Hossain 5, Manglona 4, Norita 4, Pagarao 4, Castro 2, Santos 2.

Rollers 2 36 – Juan M. 10, Kaipat 8, Lisua 7, Danas 5, Metran 4, Brel 2.

Scoring by halves: 25-11, 38-36.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES			
MLB STANDINGS			
AMERICAN LEAGUE			
East Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
New York	81	48	.628 –
Boston	75	54	.581 6
Tampa Bay	70	58	.547 10 1/2
Toronto	58	69	.457 22
Baltimore	53	77	.408 28 1/2
Central Division			
Detroit	68	60	.531 –
Minnesota	64	65	.496 4 1/2
Chicago	64	66	.492 5
Cleveland	58	71	.450 10 1/2
Kansas City	49	80	.380 19 1/2
West Division			
Los Angeles	76	52	.594 –
Texas	72	56	.562 4
Seattle	68	62	.523 9
Oakland	57	72	.442 19 1/2
NATIONAL LEAGUE			
East Division			
Philadelphia	74	53	.583 –
Florida	68	61	.527 7
Atlanta	67	62	.519 8
New York	58	72	.446 17 1/2
Washington	46	84	.354 29 1/2
Central Division			
St. Louis	76	56	.580 –
Chicago	65	62	.512 9
Milwaukee	63	66	.488 12
Houston	62	67	.481 13
Pittsburgh	56	72	.438 18 1/2
Cincinnati	53	74	.417 21
West Division			
Los Angeles	77	53	.592 –
Colorado	72	58	.554 5
San Francisco	71	59	.546 6
Arizona	58	72	.446 19
San Diego	56	75	.427 21 1/2
Yesterday's Games			
NY Yankees 20, Chi White Sox 0			
Tampa Bay 3, Detroit 1			
Texas 3, Minnesota 0			
Boston 3, Toronto 2			
Oakland 4, LA Angels 3			
Cleveland 4, Baltimore 3			
Seattle 8, Kansas City 4			
LA Dodgers 11, Cincinnati 4			
San Francisco 5, Colorado 3			
Atlanta 9, Philadelphia 1			
Chi Cubs 8, NY Mets 4			
Arizona 9, Houston 0			
St. Louis 9, Washington 4			
Milwaukee 7, Pittsburgh 3			
San Diego 7, Florida 4			
THE BARCLAYS SCORES			
JERSEY CITY, New Jersey (AP)—Scores Saturday from The Barclays, a \$7.5 million US PGA Tour playoffs event at 7,419-yard, par-71 Liberty National Golf Club Course.			
Third Round			
Paul Goydos	65-71-68	204	
Steve Marino	65-71-68	204	
Fredrik Jacobson	66-72-68	206	
Webb Simpson	66-68-72	206	
Steve Stricker	69-70-68	207	
Heath Slocum	66-72-70	208	
Tiger Woods	70-72-67	209	
Zach Johnson	70-72-67	209	
Padraig Harrington	67-75-67	209	
Matt Kuchar	68-73-68	209	
Rotary Standings			
G-Stars	1	0	
Sixers	1	0	
Sonics	1	0	
Rollers 1	1	0	
Runnin' Rebels	1	0	
Sparks	1	0	
Celtics	0	1	
Saints	0	1	
Ol'Aces	0	1	
670 Rollers	0	1	
Hi-5	0	1	
Rollers 2	0	1	

The Week in Sports

Competitions end, two more begin

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Last week's biggest events were about endings and beginnings.

The 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League concluded on Thursday night at the JP Center Basketball Court with MDX Chow Queen and Northern Marianas Bartenders Association-Ebisuya sweeping the open and master's division title series, respectively.

MDX, which won Game 1 on Aug. 14, 100-93, escaped with an 84-81 victory in Game 2 to wrap up its short championship series against erstwhile titlist Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense-Marianas Wireless.

In the masters division, NMBA also ended the series quickly, taking Game 1, 104-88, and Game 2, 101-88.

While the UFO league had brought down its curtain, Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands just started the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League.

Twelve teams are competing in this year's 18-and-under caging, namely the G-Stars, Chalan Kanoa Saints, Rollers 1, 2, and 3, the Sonics, Hi-Five, Ol'Aces, Runnin' Rebels, Sixers, Celtics, and Sparks.

The G-Stars were the first team to win in their debut game, followed by the Sixers, Sonics, Rollers 2, Runnin' Rebels, and the Sparks.

Also starting its competition last week was the Northern Marianas Bad-

minton Association, which kicked off the IT&E Singles and Mixed Doubles Tournament 2009 on Friday at the REM's court.

More than 50 players are competing in the singles and mixed doubles divisions and the tournament will run until Sept. 28 with games to be played every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

The CNMI Junior Tennis Team concluded its campaign in the 2009 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships last week and after only two days it started to participate in another tournament in Fiji.

Jodel Fernandez emerged as the top finisher for the CNMI in the ITF Oceania Plate Tournament, placing third in the Girls Junior. Benjie Decena ruled his pool, but dropped to fourth. Others who joined the ITF Oceania Plate were

Melody Johnson and Thecel Minor, Christian Miller, and Rafael Jones.

Ji Hoon Heo, who ruled the POJC, and third placer Thea Minor were entered in a different tournament—the 2009 Oceania Closed Junior Championships—and both lost in the first round.

The CNMI Women's National Football Team also dropped its first game in the East Asian Football Federation Women's Football Championship 2010 Semifinals Competition at the Tainan County Stadium, in Tainan County, Taiwan.

However, the CNMI female strikers managed to score in their 1-5 defeat to Guam with Carrie Knight giving her team its first and lone goal in the Commonwealth's first international tournament.

The CNMI was shut out by Hong

Kong, South Korea, and host Chinese-Taipei in the last three games.

Back to local events, Guam, Tinian, Rota, and Saipan teams stayed from start to finish of the Miller Lite 7th Annual Marianas Cup Friendship Tournament despite heavy rains. Unfortunately, only one team must win and it was Saipan, as SaiPal defeated Guam in the finals via a point system.

In bowling, youth kegler Raphael Zapanta notched his eighth straight monthly plum after winning the Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes Tournament.

Joining Zapanta in this month's winners' list were Alex Castro and Diane Camacho, who were named Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes for August.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members and supporters of MDX-Chow Queen pose with their championship trophy after sweeping Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense in their title series in the UFO caging on Thursday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig, fifth left, hands over the masters championship trophy to NMBA-Ebisuya during the UFO caging's awards ceremony on Saturday.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Saints' Ben Iglecias dribbles against the G-Stars' Marvin Rabauli-man during the opening of the Rotary caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Tinian batter swings and misses, during their game against SaiPal in the Miller Lite 7th Annual Marianas Cup Friendship Tournament at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.



WWW.EAFF.COM

The CNMI's Emily Gries is tightly guarded by a Korean defender during their game in the East Asian Football Federation Women's Football Championship 2010 Semifinals Competition in Tainan City, Taiwan.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

August Budweiser Queen of the Lanes Diane Camacho, second left, is joined by runners-up Elena Soll, left, Emi Williams, and Carol McK-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rob Harrell hits a volley while teammate Malou Mendoza looks on during their game against Puy Macario and Annette Quiambao in the IT&E Singles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Tournament at the REM Court in Gualo Rai yesterday.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

King of the Lanes for August Alex Castro is flanked by runners-up Raymond Zapanta, left, and Percy Omechelang.



The 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League concluded on Thursday night at the JP Center Basketball Court. **27**

Saipan Tribune Sports

Paul Goydos figured Liberty National at least would look good on television, with the Statue of Liberty and so many other New York landmarks serving as a spectacular backdrop at The Barclays. **24**



28 MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2009

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Gabriel leads opening day winners



Hapi Gabriel returns to Daniel Macario during their men's A division singles match in the IT&E Singles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Tournament 2009 yesterday at the REM Court in Gualo Rai.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The IT&E Singles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Tournament 2009 kicked off on Friday night at the REM Court in Gualo Rai with Hapi Gabriel having a good start in the men's A singles division.

Gabriel swept his two matches in the opening day of the Northern Marianas Badminton Association-sanctioned tournament, beating Edwin Montoya and Robert Reyes.

The NMBA official first dueling

Montoya and nailed a 21-18 win in the first set. The second set was an easier task for Gabriel when he won over Montoya by 13, 21-8.

Other opening day winners in the singles competition were Cristy Villaflo, Ezekiel and Daniel Macario, Keno San Pablo, and James Digno.

Villaflo needed extra games to top Malou Malasarte in the first set of their women's B division match before pulling off a 25-23 win. In the second set, Villaflo eked out a 21-16 triumph to complete the sweep.

Digno had an easier time in the

See GABRIEL on Page 26



Docomo Hustlers grab 8-Ball League lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Docomo Hustlers took the lead in the 2009 SBA Budweiser Open 8-Ball League after cruising to their second straight win on Tuesday at Wild Bill's Bar and Grill.

The Hustlers topped Wild Bill's Shark Attack, 6-1, duplicating their win over Jonny's Home Boys in the opening of the league on Aug. 18. Shark Attack won its Week 1 match over VFW Sentinel, 4-3, before bowing to the Hustlers.

After two weeks, Docomo now has a 12-2 record to grab the driver's seat from Week 1 leader USSP Watever.

USSP Watever also won in Week 2 against USSP Fotten Palau, but its 4-3 victory gave the team only an 11-3 record, a win behind the Hustlers. Watever recorded the first sweep in the league after crushing D'Pirates Ballers in Week 1, 7-0.

In third place are the Jonny's IT&E Voyagers with its 10-4 record, followed by D'Pirates Huwa (9-5), Round 2 Perfect Spotters (8-6), USSP Fotten Palau (6-8), VFW Sentinel (5-9), Wild Bill's Shark Attack (5-0), Jonny's Home Boys (3-11), and D'Pirates Ballers (1-13).

The Voyagers debuted with a close 4-3 victory over the Perfect Spotters in Week 1 and then played better in Week 2, whipping the Ballers, 6-1.

Huwa also had a hard earned win in Week 1, prevailing over Fotten Palau before thumping the Home Boys in Week 2, 5-2.

The Perfect Spotters recovered from its debut loss via a 5-2 triumph over VFW Sentinel.

Matches in the 8-Ball League are played every Tuesday at various bars on Saipan. The 10 competing teams will play for 18 weeks and winners are expected to be decided by Dec. 15.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of NTT Docomo Hustlers pose for a group photo before their game against Wild Bill's Shark Attack on Tuesday.

Abuel, Tamayo take MVP plums in UFO caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Wowie Abuel and Jeremy Tamayo took the highest individual honors in the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League, as they were named regular season and Finals MVPs, respectively, during the awards ceremony on Saturday at the JP Center Basketball Center.

Abuel had an all-around game for MDX-Chow Queen with his 17.14 points average per game, six assists, three rebounds, and 1.8 steals. He led the newly crowned MDX to a sweep in the regular season, collecting 98 points, 36 assists, 18 rebounds, and 11 steals in six games. The MDX point guard averaged four triples per game and shot 80 percent from the foul line in the regular season.

Tamayo sizzled with 33 points in MDX's 100-93 win in Game 1 over Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense. He

See ABUEL on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MDX-Chow Queen's Jeremy Tamayo, left, and Wowie Abuel were named Finals and regular season MVP in the UFO caging.

Masters Selection slips past NMBA

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Jessie Mina had the last laugh in his teasing game against Francis Rebuyon, as the burly Cabalen guard sank three free throws to lift the Masters Selection to a 104-101 win over newly crowned champion NMBA-Ebisuya in an exhibition game in the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League on Saturday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Mina made the three charities in the last five seconds of the fourth quarter after fishing off a foul from Rebuyon. Earlier, Rebuyon canned a banked shot, putting NMBA in the lead, 101-99, with 10 seconds left in the game.

The Masters Selection, which was composed of players from the six other teams that NMBA defeated for this year's masters crown, sued for time and the game resumed with Elmer Pineda in charge of the inbound play.

Before Pineda's inbound, Mina and

See MASTERS on Page 26



Mina